FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-134
Thursday
13 July 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-134 *13 July 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League on Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon *[MENA]* 1
Ministers Fail To Agree on Mechanism Against 'Terrorism' *[AL-WAFD 9 Jul]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Kanafani on Decision on Venue for Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 2
'Abbas Returns From Cairo, Meets 'Arafat *[Jericho VOP]* 2
'Arafat Receives Russian, Turkish Envoys *[Jericho VOP]* 2
European Official To Help With Elections Preparation *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Nationals With Expired Permits Allowed To Return *[AL-RA'Y 13 Jul]* 2
Fatah's Zaki Criticizes Israeli Peace Concept *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jul]* 3
Islamic, PFLP Lists Remove Fatah From al-Najah Council *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Jul]* 4
Police Arrest 20 Hamas Members, Question Reporters *[HA'ARETZ 13 Jul]* 4

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat To Sign Accord With Israel in Aug *[MENA]* 4
Quray' Says Talks To Resume 'in Region' *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Says 'Secret' Talks Held in Italy *[AFP]* 6
Urges Flexibility on Election Issues *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Sources on 'Positive Signs' 25 Jul Deadline Will Be Met *[MENA]* 7
Histadrut's Ramon Meets With 'Arafat in Gaza *[Jerusalem TV]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Reportage on Algerian-Libyan Cooperation Committee 8
Sifi Delivers Speech *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Libyan Official Optimistic *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Both Sides Condemn 'Terrorism' *[Tripoli TV]* 8
Press Statement on Meeting *[JANA]* 8
Secretary on 'Positive Results' *[JANA]* 10
Committee Concludes Session *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS Leader Rejects Blame for Dialogue Failure *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jul]* 11
Opposition Newsletter Decries Military Interventions *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 16 Jun]* 11
Saddam's Envoy Makes Statement, Departs *[INA]* 16
Foreign Minister Returns From 'Positive' Moscow Trip *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Company Announces New Oil Well Operational *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Sudan Security Releases 4 of 8 Detained Workers 17
Detainees Deported From Khartoum *[MENA]* 17
Deportees Arrive in Cairo *[MENA]* 17

Further Reportage on Egypt-Sudan Tensions 17
Al-Baz on Threat From Sudan's NIF *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jul]* 17
Commentary Urges Action Against Regime *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Authorities Said To 'Move' Residences *[AL-WAFD 9 Jul]* 19
Editorial on Iranian Red Sea Presence *[AL-WAFD 10 Jul]* 19
Chieftains Support, Congratulate Mubarak *[MENA]* 19
'Terrorist' Killed, 2 Arrested as Hideouts Stormed *[MENA]* 20
Social, Political Violence in al-Minya Viewed *[AL-MUSAWWAR 12 May]* 20
UN Secretary General Visits Alexandria, Cairo 23
Briefs Mubarak on Regional Issues *[Cairo Radio]* 23
Leaves for Uganda *[MENA]* 23
Musa on Egyptian-EU Partnership Agreement *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Delegation Leaves for Brussels Talks With EU *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Musa Leaves for OSCE Meetings in Vienna *[MENA]* 24
Israeli Agriculture Minister Arrives for Talks *[MENA]* 24
Minister Winds Up Talks, Departs *[MENA]* 24
Minister Cited on Currency, Inflation, Exports *[MENA]* 24
Sidqi: Increase in Wages To Cost 1 Billion Pounds *[Cairo Radio]* 25
Japan To Provide Grant for Food Production *[MENA]* 25
Information Minister Opens Cairo Television Festival *[Cairo Radio]* 25
Egypt Grants Kenya $4.3 Million for Water Wells *[MENA]* 25

Libya

Palestinian Brigade 'Ready' To Leave Libya *[JANA]* 26
Bulgarian-Libyan Joint Committee Holds 20th Session *[JANA]* 26
Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Departs *[Tripoli Radio]* 26
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message *[INA]* 26

Morocco

French Official Arrives on Visit, Makes Statement *[Rabat Radio]* 27
Talks With Ministers *[Rabat TV]* 27
Parliament Delegation in Geneva for Talks on Fishing *[MAP]* 27
Filali Meets With OIC Delegation on Bosnia *[MAP]* 28

Sudan

Iranian Military Presence Off Port Sudan Reported *[AL-WAFD 10 Jul]* 28
'Senior Official' To Visit Hala'ib Region *[AFP]* 28
Minister Says Egypt Entrenching Hala'ib *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
Foreign Minister To Brief Gulf Leaders on Egypt *[Omdurman Radio]* 29

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Head Interviewed on Regional Issues *[SPA]* 30

Kuwait

Defense Minister Denies Maneuvers 'Extraordinary' *[KUNA]* 31
Ministry Aide on Relations With Yemen *[London AL-MAJALLAH 2-8 Jul]* 31

Qatar

Statement Issued on Yemeni President's Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 33

Saudi Arabia

CDLR BULLETIN Discusses Legitimacy of Regime *[London CDLR Monitor 23 Jun]* 34

IRAQ

BABIL Assails U.S. Support for Turkish 'Invasion' *[INA]* 39
Libyan Transport Ministry Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 39
Delegates Begin Cooperation Talks *[INA]* 39
Trade Minister Meets Delegation *[INA]* 39
Ramadan Meets With Libyan Official *[INA]* 39
Health Minister Meets Libyan Official *[INA]* 40
Joint Cooperation Protocol Signed *[INA]* 40
Libyan Official Concludes Visit *[INA]* 40
Trade Minister Meets With Sudanese Energy Minister *[INA]* 40
Minutes of Oil Cooperation Signed *[INA]* 40
Sudanese Minister Departs *[INA]* 41
AL-THAWRAH Says Husni Mubarak U.S. 'Hireling' *[INA]* 41
Mubarak Urged To Stop Instigations Against Sudan *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Jul]* 41
New Qatari Regime Viewed as Sign of Change *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Jun]* 42
Paper Views Saddam's Reelection as Ba'th Leader *[INA]* 45

ISRAEL

Rabinovich on 'Uncertain Situation' in Syrian Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Syria Criticized on Warning Stations *[Judean Voice]* 46
Uri Savir on Talks With Palestinians *[Jericho VOP]* 46
IDF Concerned With Size of Palestinian Police *[HATZOFE 10 Jul]* 49
Northern Command Denies Levin's Lebanon Remarks *[DAVAR 12 Jul]* 49
Commentary on Rabin's Criticism of IDF Actions *[HA'ARETZ 10 Jul]* 49
NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion on Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Rabin Says Efrat Expansion Possible *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Halakic Ruling Calls For Disobeying Evacuation Orders *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Reaction to Halakic Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Peres, Ukraine Official Disagree on Joining NPT *[Moscow ITAR-TASS]* 52
Ukraine Official Ends Visit *[Kiev Radio]* 52
Plan To Kidnap Israeli Tourists by Kashmiris Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
Muslim Scholar: Islamic Movement Losing Strength *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Jul]* 52

JORDAN

King Returns, Makes Statement on Europe Visit *[Amman TV]* 54
Voting Process for Municipal Elections Ends *[Amman Radio]* 54
U.S. Envoy Remarks on Debt Relief Plan Cited *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Jul]* 54
Officials Meet With Iraq's Husayn Kamil Hasan *[Amman Radio]* 55
Hasan Comments on Relations *[Amman TV]* 55

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Speech on 'Just,' 'Comprehensive Peace' *[VOL]* 56
Sudanese Envoy Carries Message on Regional Issues *[VOL]* 56
Labor Chief Comments on Trade Unions Strike *[Beirut Radio]* 56

SYRIA

Ross, al-Shar' Meet; Damascus Talks 'Intensive' *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Ross Leaves Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Paper Views Ross' Tour Outcome *[AL-THAWRAH 11 Jul]* 57
Salman on Possible Results *[AL-WAFD 9 Jul]* 58

Commentaries View Peace Talks, Israel's Stance 60
Papers Repeat Damascus' Position *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Radio Views Israel's Duty *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive for Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 61
Expanded, Closed Meetings Held *[Damascus TV]* 62
TISHRIN Comments on Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 62

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Reportedly Meets With Saudi Prince *[Message of Freedom]* 63
Plan for Resolving National Issues Proposed *[Kabul Radio]* 63

India

Editorial Criticizes 'Pendulum-Like' U.S. Policy *[JANSATTA 1 Jul]* 64
Minister, German Official Discuss Kidnappings *[Delhi TV]* 64
Editorial Views Kidnappings, Political Solution *[INDIAN EXPRESS 11 Jul]* 65

Iran

Daily Views Gore-Chernomyrdin Talks, Russian Ties *[ABRAR 4 Jul]* 65
'Expert' Rejects Amnesty International Criticism *[IRNA]* 66
Velayati Discusses Crisis With Bosnian Leaders *[IRNA]* 66
Commentary Blames UN for Fall of Srebrenica *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Japanese Official Stresses Importance of Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Iraqi Envoy Calls For Total Cooperation *[IRNA]* 68
Paper Criticizes Turkish Action in Northern Iraq *[IRNA]* 68
Rafsanjani Stresses Role of Agriculture *[IRNA]* 68
Statement Issued at End of 'Victory-6' Maneuvers *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Technology Transfer To Fit Internal Needs Viewed *[KEYHAN 6 May]* 69
HAMSHAHRI Reports on Housing Market *[31 May]* 71

Pakistan

U.S. 'Dirty Games' Against Muslim World Criticized *[THE MUSLIM 9 Jul]* 74
Daily Accuses U.S. of 'Dual Policy' on Kashmir *[JASARAT 7 Jul]* 75
Kidnapped German Engineers Reportedly Released *[AFP]* 76
Government, MQM Continue Official Talks 76
Minister Denies 'Outside Pressure' *[Islamabad Radio]* 76
MQM Negotiator Views Talks *[THE NATION 12 Jul]* 76
MQM Chief Cancels Protest To Help Talks *[AFP]* 79
MQM Chief Interviewed on Karachi Issue *[INDIA TODAY 15 Jul]* 80

Sri Lanka

Operation 'Leap Forward' Continues Against LTTE 82
Troops Capture LTTE Strongholds *[Colombo International]* 82
Spokesman Claims 'Great Success' *[AFP]* 83
Proposed Abolition of Executive Presidency Approved *[Colombo International]* 84

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League on Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

NC1007170095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—The Arab League has strongly denounced the continuation of the flagrant Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, which is a blatant violation of all UN Security Council resolutions.

In a statement issued today, the General Secretariat emphasizes that Israel's continued acts of aggression against southern Lebanon jeopardize the peace process.

The statement calls on all forces, especially the two states sponsoring the peace process, to pressure Israel and force it to halt its military operations in southern Lebanon and make it commit itself to implementing Security Council Resolution 425.

The statement says the Arab League General Secretariat is following with utmost concern Israel's continuous acts of aggression against Lebanon's territory and peaceful citizens and the resulting loss of life and displacement of Lebanese citizens.

Ministers Fail To Agree on Mechanism Against 'Terrorism'

NC1307073495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by 'Ali Khamis]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Information Ministers Council concluded its recent session last weekend at the Arab League building without agreeing on a specific mechanism for confronting and eliminating terrorism in the Arab region. The Arab information ministers unanimously agreed on the danger that this phenomenon poses to stability in the region. They also stressed the importance of coordinating Arab efforts against this phenomenon, which threatens to destroy the Arab peoples' resources and prospects.

The council did not approve any specific mechanism or framework for overseeing the confrontation with this phenomenon. The council left it open for the Arab countries to coordinate their efforts and stands at the working level. The only mechanism considered by the council was the one presented by the Arab interior ministers for coordination between the Arab information and interior ministers on eliminating terrorism.

The Arab information ministers refused to discuss the interior ministers' initiative and asked that it be withdrawn from the agenda because of a procedural error. The initiative was supported by Egypt, Algeria, and some Arab delegations.

The initiative noted that there were several important reasons for setting up a mechanism for cooperation between the Arab security and media organs that will demonstrate the Arab countries' determination to achieve their ultimate objective of a secure and stable Arab homeland.

The most important reasons mentioned in the Arab interior ministers' initiative was the endless upsurge in modern crime and the targeting of our Arab region by terrorists and violent organized crime groups so as to exploit our resources, squander our wealth, and spread fear and unease among our sons. The initiative said this requires strengthening all forms of Arab cooperation, and coordination of efforts in confronting these crimes, especially among the security and media organs.

The Arab interior ministers' initiative also stressed that the nature of the new world order — which is characterized by unique and vital traits, above all dependence on regional and international blocs in confronting problems, taking stands, drawing up policies, and shouldering responsibilities and duties — clearly shows the difficulties that individual countries face in confronting modern crime, which has moved beyond national borders to new regional and international scopes, backed by huge resources. This also highlights the important role that the media could play in combating such crime. The initiative also called for setting up a specific mechanism for cooperation between the Arab security and media organs in order to eliminate terrorism and develop Arab citizens' sense of security.

The initiative proposed that the interior and information ministers' councils set up a coordination committee to draw up strategies for joint action and to follow the implementation of the plans and programs in various Arab countries.

The Arab interior ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the coordination mechanism to include all security issues that have a direct or indirect connection with terrorism. It noted that the Arab Information Ministers Council has paid particular attention to the issue of terrorism, particularly since the middle of 1993 when they adopted the information experts' recommendation to regard the media's security role vis-a-vis the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism as one of the issues to be included on the council's agenda as long as terrorism exists.

The initiative called for joint security-media efforts on a number of other security issues, including the trade in drugs and LSD and their illegal use, all forms

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of organized crime, and other contemporary issues that have a bearing on the Arab nation's growth and progress.

Palestinian Affairs

Kanafani on Decision on Venue for Talks

JN1207141095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will receive Dennis Ross, U.S. special coordinator of the Middle East peace process, at the Presidency headquarters in Gaza this evening.

Marawan Kanafani, adviser and spokesman of President 'Arafat, said the talks will deal with the latest developments of the peace process and results of negotiations with the Israeli side, especially concerning the 25 July deadline, and the holding of Palestinian legislative elections.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine regarding the venue for resuming the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transitional stage, Kanafani stressed that the Palestinian side prefers that the negotiations be held in Palestine and not outside.

He added that the proposal to resume the negotiations in Italy was not a Palestinian proposal, and stressed that so far no agreement has been reached on the venue. He said we are now studying this subject in order to make a decision today or tomorrow.

(Yigael Valmer,) spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, has said that the Israeli side is prepared to negotiate anywhere, whether in Italy, Egypt, or the Erez crossing.

'Abbas Returns From Cairo, Meets 'Arafat

JN1307100295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, Fatah Central Committee member, and head of the Higher Negotiations Committee, has returned to the homeland.

Abu-Mazin met with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidency in Gaza today. The two sides assessed the Palestinian stand on the negotiations with Israel.

In a predeparture statement in Cairo, Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinian National Authority prefers conducting the negotiations with Israel in Egypt in view of Cairo's support for the Palestinian cause and because it is close to the Palestinian and Israeli decision makers.

'Arafat Receives Russian, Turkish Envoys

JN1207203295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning received the Russian charge d'affaires who informed the president of the Russian Government's decision to open a Russian liaison mission to the Palestinian National Authority and name the head of the mission.

'Arafat also received Mr. (Avika Akin), the Turkish consul general. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East negotiations, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

European Official To Help With Elections Preparation

JN1207202495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has said a ranking European official will arrive in the National Authority areas within the coming days to prepare for the Palestinian legislative elections.

He said this was decided during his meeting with Thomas (Dubla), the European resident representative, held at the Local Government Ministry today.

He added that the meeting focused on the legislative elections since the European Union is the general coordinator of international supervision of the Palestinian elections along with other states and organizations. These include the United States, Russia, Norway, Canada, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, the Organization of African Unity, nonaligned states, and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Urayqat met today with U.S. Consul General Edward Abington and acquainted him with the latest developments in the negotiations on the legislative elections.

Nationals With Expired Permits Allowed To Return

JN1307105995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Embassy in Amman has announced that Palestinian Authority [PA] nationals abroad, whose travel permits have expired, can now return to Gaza and Jericho.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian charge d'affairs and PA representative in Jordan, said holders of travel permits who left the PA areas before 15 July 1994, as well as PA nationals who left the territories with valid exit permits and resided abroad, can now return to the PA areas at any time regardless of the duration of their stay abroad and without having to renew their travel permits.

He added that the citizenship of PA nationals, which was valid on 17 May 1994 [date as published], will not be canceled after having lived abroad for an unspecified period of time. Al-Khatib said that those meant by this decision can return via the same crossing points they used on departure.

Al-Khatib expected other areas in the West Bank to be covered by this decision as soon as the PA assumes power there. He said this decision was reached after lengthy talks between the PA and the Israeli Government, in which Ahmad Sa'id al-Tamimi, under secretary of the PA's Interior Ministry, participated.

Al-Khatib said al-Tamimi had informed the Palestinian embassies in Jordan, Egypt, and the Gulf states of this decision, which applies to a large number of Palestinians residing in these sisterly countries.

Fatah's Zaki Criticizes Israeli Peace Concept

MM1107134995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The New Common Understanding Agreement Runs Contrary to the Spirit of the Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki has stressed that what is currently being said about a new common understanding agreement runs contrary to Fatah Central Committee and PLO Executive Committee decisions, and it does not reflect the spirit of the declaration of principles because it separates the towns from the rural areas and ignores the issue of the settlements.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Zaki emphasized that any talk about agreement or understanding that does not cover geographical jurisdiction, political unity, and gradual withdrawal according to timetables up to the final phase, will not achieve comprehensive peace.

Zaki, the intifadah secretary, pointed out that there is no agreement but efforts to reach agreement...and that all that has been agreed upon so far is that on 8 October the Israeli Army will withdraw from Janin, an idea which was raised before by Israel as a geographical experiment and a way of prolonging the settlement process according to the Israeli concept. He said that what is being said about agreement is just in line with the idea of geographical partition and deliberate and premeditated delay of the redeployment. He said that this is substantiated by statements made by senior Israeli officials about redeployment away from six West Bank towns, with the Palestinian officials, especially Abu-'Ala' (Ahmad Quray') talking about seven towns. Zaki denied that he recently met in Amman with Abu-'Ala' to be briefed about the unannounced negotiations he held with Yuri Savir, secretary general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Zaki, who is opposed to the Oslo agreement, referred to the statements made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which he said that Israel does not concede anything and that despite the talk about the West Bank, the River Jordan is Israel's border and that sovereignty over the West Bank will not be given up. He also referred to Rabin's statement in which he said that if 'Arafat does not abrogate the charter within two months after the elections, everything will revert back to the situation which existed before.

Zaki said that the currently increasing Israeli pressure indicates that the Palestinian Authority [PA] will now have to accept something conditional, incomplete, and in harmony with Israel's strategy, or lose everything.

Zaki said that Israel's current concept of the peace process does not tackle sovereignty but tries to just give up part of the peel at the expense of the substance and the essence. Zaki wondered why the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee have only met three times since the Oslo agreement and why the Palestine National Council [PNC] has only met once when the Israeli Knesset meets regularly and continuously?

Zaki added: Lack of regular Palestinian meetings, absence of the Palestinian institutions, and absence of national consensus, are some of the terms of the Oslo agreement. That, he said, is very risky, and it is very regrettable that Palestinian meetings are postponed until the achievement of results with Israel when the appropriate thing to do is hold meetings continuously to draw up a strategy commensurate with what is going on.

He stressed that the Palestinian people sacrificed a lot and gave the peace process all they could, including recognition of two states on a small territory called Palestine, but these people cannot possibly remain idle in the face of a strictly Israeli peace because peace, security, sovereignty should be for two parties, not one, and any emergence of the ambiguous Israeli aims will be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

directly confronted by our people who are more mature in their conduct of this struggle and who can detect the solution envisaged by the enemy.

He said that the region is on the verge of a phase in which advantage could be taken of the experience and available capabilities to draw up a future action strategy that would compel the enemy and the peace process sponsors to opt for a convincing and defensible solution.

Zaki drew attention to the risks Israel is forcing the PA to take such as the risk of having President 'Arafat elected directly by the people. That, he said, would set a ceiling of a limited administrative rule which would mean no hope of a final phase or of establishing a state, and it would mean that Yasir 'Arafat would become the head of a limited administrative rule which would be in conflict with his status as president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO.

Zaki affirmed that the elections should be comprehensive and should include all Palestinians, including the Palestinians of Jerusalem, who should all have the right to vote and run for election, and the elected members should also be PNC members to confirm the political jurisdiction of the political authority represented by the PLO in order to maintain the unity of the people at home and abroad.

Zaki said that his return to the homeland will depend on Israeli approval, which has not been granted yet.

Islamic, PFLP Lists Remove Fatah From al-Najah Council

TA1207142095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jul 95 , p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pro-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Islamic List and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have reached an agreement to form the student council at al-Najah University in Nabulus after Fatah failed to do so for the first time in 14 years.

In elections two weeks ago, Hamas and Fatah won an equal number of votes — entitling them to eight seats on the student council, using a new system of proportional representation. This meant that the PFLP, with three seats, held the balance. Fatah failed to reach an agreement with the PFLP. The show of Hamas strength in the largest Palestinian university comes amid redeployment talks.

In Nabulus yesterday, Mayor Ghassan al-Shak'ah denied reports that Palestinian police were being stationed in the city ahead of any redeployment agreement. He said some 40 city inspectors were given new uniforms, with the insignia "Nabulus Municipality" to mark the visit of Latin Patriarch Michael Sabah.

Police Arrest 20 Hamas Members, Question Reporters

TA1307101595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jul 95 p A12

[Report by 'Amira Hass]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two days ago, the Palestinian police arrested some 20 men, known as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, in the al-Nazlah neighborhood, located between Jabalyah and Gaza. It is believed that the arrests are connected with shots that were fired earlier this week at an officer of Musa 'Arafat's military intelligence.

Hamas and its military arm often criticize Musa 'Arafat, and the gun of one his officers was snatched from him three weeks ago.

Rumors about this shooting incident have been circulating in Gaza for several days, but were not officially confirmed. Locals claim that the man who was shot at is connected with the shaving of the hair and beard of arrested senior Hamas members.

Three days ago, AL-QUDS reporter 'Ala Mashrawi who also works with several Israeli reporters, was arrested. His brother who works with him was arrested yesterday. It appears that their arrest is connected with the information they provided about a Hamas man who had been shaved.

Another two reporters who work for AL-NAHAR's Gaza office were called for questioning yesterday. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat To Sign Accord With Israel in Aug

NC1207124795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he will sign the agreement for the implementation of the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This will take place in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton at a ceremony to be held at the White House in early August.

In remarks to the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 14 July, 'Arafat added that four annexes to the agreement will be signed in Cairo following

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the White House ceremony. 'Arafat had expected the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to end on 24 July with both sides agreeing to begin the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement, which deals with the transfer of the self- rule authority to the West Bank, and a commitment to implement what has been delayed from the first stage, notably the release of 6,000 Palestinian detainees still held in Israeli prisons.

The Palestinian president added that under the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Israeli troops will fully withdraw from Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin before elections are held. The elections are expected to be held in early September or October. 'Arafat added that the agreement also provides for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron during the elections and for the Israeli troops to maintain a military presence on the highways that connect the inhabitants of the West Bank settlements with Jerusalem.

'Arafat pointed out that there is a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the need for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to take part in the elections for the self-rule authority. 'Arafat noted that he is now studying a proposal to transfer the Palestinian National Authority to Bethlehem in the upcoming stage.

Quray' Says Talks To Resume 'in Region'

JN1207115895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Interview with Palestinian Economy and Trade Minister Ahmad Quray' by unidentified radio correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade, good morning.

[Quray'] Good morning.

[Correspondent] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], will the talks be held in Italy or in Gaza?

[Quray'] The talks are going on in the place where they were taking place, that is, in the region. There were trends to hold the talks in Italy, but no decision was taken in this regard. Now, an agreement has been reached with Italy to suspend the request to hold the talks in Italy. We highly appreciate and thank the Italian Government for its readiness to host the talks. We also thank the Italian Government for hosting three previous meetings. The Italian Government prepared all necessary arrangements to render a success the three rounds of talks which were held in Italy under the sponsorship of the Italian Government. Thus, the talks continued in the same place where they were held. The talks will not be held outside the region because the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators need higher decisions from their higher leadership so that they can end and ratify the agreement on or before 25 July.

[Correspondent] Where did the proposal to hold the talks in Italy come from?

[Quray'] There was a proposal. The Italian Government made the invitation and the invitation was welcomed. What do you mean by where did it come from?

[Correspondent] Was it a Palestinian proposal?

[Quray', interrupting] Is the Italian Government's idea abnormal?

[Correspondent] Was the proposal Israeli or Palestinian?

[Quray'] This question is wrong. The proposal was Italian; it was made by the Italian Government. It is the one which addresses the invitation, hosts the talks, welcomes the delegations, and facilitates the convening of the meeting. As you know, when a large number of people go to Italy to hold negotiations it will be costly. We thank them for this readiness.

[Correspondent] Forgive us, Abu-'Ala', our questions might be wrong as you say. However, the negotiations now ...

[Quray', interrupting] There is no doubt that the question is wrong and should not have been asked, in the first place.

[Correspondent] Abu-'Ala', the talks are still going on. Where in the region will they be held?

[Quray'] In the region, the talks could be here, could be ... [sentence incomplete]. They should be close to the Palestinian and Israeli political decisionmaking quarters.

[Correspondent] Is Cairo an appropriate and close venue?

[Quray'] Please, do not ask logistical questions about venues because this is not the subject of the talks. We are proud of and welcome Cairo as a venue for the talks. Most of the Palestinian talks were held in Cairo. Egypt is concerned about and very close to the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track. It supports and hosts these talks. However, please let us ask more questions about the talks not about the form, or the logistical issues.

[Correspondent] Israeli reports say that the talks will be held in Taba.

[Quray'] I do not believe so. As I said, the talks will be tomorrow [as heard] and will be held here, close to President 'Arafat and to the Israeli prime minister. [words indistinct] very close to them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] Where have the talks reached?

[Quray'] The talks now are in their final stages. There are still some differences, but they are in their final stages, stages of drafting and defining the differences in the suspended issues. The gaps, which still exist, are on the basic issues that are related to the land, security, and powers and authority; that is, the three pivotal issues on which the talks are revolving now.

[Correspondent] What are the controversial issues?

[Quray'] Do we have to make a report on the controversial issues over the radio. I am saying that there are still differences and the talks are still going on. The security committee is in session now to define the differences or bring viewpoints closer.

[Correspondent] Do you think that all suspended issues will be resolved before 25 July?

[Quray'] Let us hope so. There is no doubt that the task is difficult, but we hope that by 25 July things will be settled. However, if by 25 July we do not reach a just agreement that takes into consideration our interests, our people's interests, the implementation of the letter and spirit of the Declaration of Principles it will do no harm if the date is extended a few days.

[Correspondent] Are you in the picture of what has been accomplished in Cairo with regard to the power transfer agreement?

[Quray'] Yes.

[Correspondent] What has been accomplished in Cairo?

[Quray'] President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister agreed in March on transferring eight powers to the Palestinians before electing the council. It is known that the Palestinian council will receive all powers in the West Bank. However, it was agreed to add these eight powers to the early powers that were transferred to the Palestinian Authority, so that 13 powers will be transferred before inaugurating the council. They might be more of course. Now, an agreement has been reached to transfer these eight powers, and I believe that this is a positive step on the road.

[Correspondent] Will the agreement be signed in Washington on 25 July?

[Quray'] If we reach an agreement we will sign it.

[Correspondent] Where?

[Quray'] I know that the United States has extended an invitation, however, I do not know if this will take place there. This will be known in the next few days. The most important thing is to reach an agreement. Washington is a great venue and it is the place of the sponsor of the peace process, and we know the influence and size of the United States. Therefore, we very much welcome the venue. But, eventually, this is a political decision.

[Correspondent] If the agreement is signed on 25 July when will it be implemented?

[Quray'] The agreement must be implemented once it is signed. The Israeli Army will begin relocation outside the populated areas provided that the relocation must be completed 22 days before the holding of the Palestinian elections. Then, the Palestinian public security will be in charge of public order in the populated areas.

[Correspondent] Is the Palestinian police fully ready for deployment in the liberated areas?

[Quray'] God willing, and we hope so.

[Correspondent] Thank you Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Says 'Secret' Talks Held in Italy

NC1207144695 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 12 (AFP)— Israel and the PLO have held secret negotiations in Italy this week in a bid to strike a deal by July 25 to extend self-rule, Palestinian economy minister Ahmad Quray' told AFP on Wednesday [12 July].

"Three session of negotiations have taken place in Italy in recent days, far from the media," Quray' said.

"We have decided to transfer the negotiations to this region to be near to Gaza and Jerusalem where the decisions are made."

He refused to say exactly where the Italy meetings took place.

"We hope to reach an agreement by July 25 but we will not cry if we are a few days late," Quray' added.

Israeli and Palestinian officials had announced that Quray' and Uri Savir of Israel's foreign ministry would hold talks in Italy this week but then repeatedly said they had been delayed.

Urges Flexibility on Election Issues

JN1107144395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, has said that the Palestinian and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli sides have not yet agreed on the nature of participation by Jerusalem citizens in the upcoming elections. In press statements today, 'Urayqat stressed the Palestinian demand that the elected Legislative Council should be comprised of 100 members. Dr. 'Urayqat called on the Israeli Government to show more flexibility in order to solve pending issues related to holding Palestinian general elections.

Sources on 'Positive Signs' 25 Jul Deadline Will Be Met

NC1207172995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo have revealed that the draft agreement over the transfer of powers concluded by Palestinian and Israeli negotiators last night still contains some disagreements over water and customs.

The sources told MENA today that this is why Jamil al-Tarifi and Oren Shahor, the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations respectively, decided to return to their leaders in an attempt to bring the two sides' views closer in connection with these two issues.

The Palestinian sources declared that, despite this disagreement, al-Tarifi and Shahor are expected to sign the agreement in Cairo next week. The sources added that there are positive signs the 25 July deadline for implementing the second phase of the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles will be met.

Al-Tarifi announced yesterday that a joint formula was reached with the Israeli delegation over the transfer of powers in the spheres of petroleum, gas, insurance, postal services, labor, trade, industry, agriculture, statistics, local government, and municipal affairs.

Histadrut's Ramon Meets With 'Arafat in Gaza

TA1107181895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Histadrut labor federation Chairman Hayim Ramon met in Gaza with Palestinian Authority [PA] head Yasir 'Arafat and discussed with him ways of cooperation between the Histadrut and the PA. Our correspondent Majdi Halabi adds that this meeting was also intended to overcome some obstacles and ensure continued cooperation between the Histadrut and Palestinian labor unions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Reportage on Algerian-Libyan Cooperation Committee

Sifi Delivers Speech

LD1107151895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ninth session of the Algerian-Libyan joint executive cooperation committee ended this morning in the El-Mithaq residence in Algiers. During the meeting, Prime Minister Sifi made a speech in which he stressed that in the future there will be tangible cooperation between Algeria and Libya when the agreed joint projects are carried out. He said: The action program contained in the minutes of meetings which we signed a short while ago stems from our strong desire to overcome the difficulties facing some of our joint projects, and as I said, assuredly opens up new scope for the realization of our aspirations and the hopes of our two peoples. [passage omitted]

Sifi also said: This morning was a valuable opportunity for us to hold political consultations in the context of our efforts to insure an exchange of views on all topics of joint interest in order to strengthen the coordination and harmony of our positions, and to unify our approach to various issues of the day. [passage omitted]

Sifi went on to say: I want to reiterate our solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people in their suffering caused by the embargo imposed on Libya.

Libyan Official Optimistic

LD1107182495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning at the presidency, President Liamine Zeroual received 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, the secretary of the Libyan general people's committee. [passage omitted]

After this meeting, al-Qu'ud made a statement to radio correspondent Ahmed Soukou in which he said:

[Begin al-Qu'ud recording] [passage omitted] Thanks be to God that since the holding of the eighth session, a year ago, some practical achievements have been realized, which concern both Libyans and Algerians. The Algerian town of Deb Deb has been electrically linked to the Libyan town of Ghadames, and communications have been established between the two towns. This session focusses on the development of border areas in the interest of the population in Algeria and Libya. There will be also an easy flow of home-made goods between the two countries, an easy movement of persons, and common resources will be exploited, God willing, and there will be an integration of the large industrial structures in both countries, thanks to the will of the revolution in both countries and the will of their loyal sons. [end recording]

Both Sides Condemn 'Terrorism'

LD1107214595 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the meetings of the 9th session of the Libyan Arab-Algerian joint executive committee, a joint press release was issued in both Algiers and Tripoli today.

The press release reaffirmed the need for increasing political consultation when coordinating the two countries' policies.

It also condemned all forms of terrorism, violence, extremism and heresy which are contrary to the values and traditions of our society and, in particular, the use of the True Muslim Religion as a cover for suspicious political aims within the framework of the conspiratorial schemes against the Arab and Islamic worlds in a bid to weaken and dismember them and to tarnish the Tolerant Islamic Values. In this respect, the two sides reiterated their commitment to the document which was issued by the 7th summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The press release also stressed the need for boosting the march of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], for bolstering its apparatus and for breathing life into its executive institutions, as stipulated in the Union's treaty in order to secure the implementation of the agreements and the decisions which have been taken by the Union. Also, the need to expand the activities of the Maghreban population in the unitary action to realise the aims of the union was urged. end.

Press Statement on Meeting

LD1207200995 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Press statement issued at the conclusion of the meetings of the 9th session of the Algerian-Libyan Joint Executive Committee in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, 12 Jul (JANA) — According to the brotherly relations between Libya and Algeria and in implementation of the instructions of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the leader of the great Al Fatih revolution and President Lamine Zeroual of Algeria, the Algerian-Libyan Joint Extcutive Committee held its 9th session in Algiers City from 9-11th July 1995 with the attendance of the secretary of the General People's Committee, Mokdad Sifi, the Algerian prime

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

minister and members of the General People's Committee Secretariat and the Algerian government within the pattern of following up the cooperation programmes between Libya and Algeria in order to support the integration relationships and solidarity between the two countries and advancing the Arab Maghreb Union to achieve pan-Arab unity.

It is worth noting President Lamine Zeroual received the secretary of the General People's Committee who conveyed the compliments of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the leader of the great Al Fatih revolution to President Zeroual and the Algerian people.

President Zeroual stressed the need to implement the agreement between the two countries and asserted the support of Algeria with Libya in confronting the unjust measures imposed against it. He called for the finding of a just solution to the crisis between Libya and western countries.

The Joint Executive Committee passed many resolutions concerning joint investment in the fields of industrial development, the expansion of trade exchange and developing the joint border regions. Resolutions for cooperation in the fields of health, transport, communication, information and education sectors were also passed.

In this regard the Joint Executive Committee passed the following resolutions: "The committee expressed its comfort about what has been achieved in the field of electricity links between Ghadames and Dibdab cities and the production of optic fibre cables to achieve the full link between the two countries.

"The committee ruled that a resolution concerning trade exchange between the two countries and solving all the difficulties which are obstructing development and decided to activate joint trade chambers and ease the customs, management, and banking procedures [sentence as received].

"The committee called for development of the former Ghadames reservoir and the formulation of a plan to develop villages near the borders of the two countries and studying ways of integration in the fields of road construction and maintenance and in the field of industry — specially railways, petro-chemicals and fertiliser compounds.

"It also called for joint management of some new health institutes and for cooperation in the field of finance, banking, education and art." The committee conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the international and regional situations and its effects on the region and made the following ruling:

"Increasing political dialogue and integrating the stance of the two countries regarding issues of joint mutual interest.

"Condemning all forms of terrorism, violence, extremism and blasphemy which are alien to our communities, especially the use of Islam as a cover to serve political aims within a conspiracy against the Arab and Islamic nation. They asserted the resolutions issued by the seventh summit of the Islamic Conference Organisation regarding these problems." It pressed for the advancement of the Arab Maghreb Union's activities, supporting its institutes and activating its executive departments within the framework of establishing the union in order to secure the implementation of the agreement and the union's resolutions and expanding the popular base to achieve the goals of the union.

"Continued efforts to advance the rule of the [word indistinct] of the Arab League and its institutions to embody joint Arab activities and achieve national security for the Arab nation.

"Continued coordination between the two countries to participate in purifying the Arab climate and consolidating the basis of active Arab solidarity to confront the challenges and activate joint Arab activity within the pattern of the Arab League to achieve the inspiration of the Arab nation.

"Asserting Iraqi sovereignty, the unity of Iraqi territory and pressing for the alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people due to the sanctions imposed on them.

"Continuing support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for returning their legitimate rights including the establishment of their independent country and its captial Jerusalem.

"Continuation of the coordination and dialogue for supporting cooperation stability and security in the region of the Saharan coast and asserting the importance of activating African-Arab cooperation to serve the joint interests of the two groups.

"Advancing dialogue between the Arab Maghreb Union and the European Union to achieve the joint interests of the peoples in the Mediterranean so that it becomes a cooperative pond within a pattern of equal relationships between the countries of the AMU and Europe and exerting efforts to begin dialogue between the sides within the pattern of '5"5' and '5"15' and asserting this achievement within the principle on this dialogue. Thus the two sides asserted on the political negotiations of the foreign ministers councils of the Arab Maghreb Union which was held in Algiers on 18 June 1995 concerning the Barcelona conference, which will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

be held on 27 November 1995, and asserting the importance of the participation of the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union in that conference and participating in the preparatory (?measures) for that conference.

"Calling for freeing the Middle East region from all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and stressing the need to achieve equal and balanced security which asserts the involvement of all the countries in the region including the israeli enemy to the concerned agreement, especially the agreement of non-nuclear proliferation. Therefore the two sides asserted the right of non-nuclear countries to gain the nuclear technology for peaceful purposes within the stipulations of the International Agency for Nuclear Energy and they asserted their stances for expanding the agreement to achieve its internationalism.

"The two sides expressed their deep concern about the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and asserted the solidarity and support of the Bosnian people in confronting the Serbian challenges and their intransigence and called on the international community to find an immediate and just solution to this tragedy within the light of international resolutions, the seventh Islamic summit conference resolution and the proposals of the Islamic liaison group regarding Bosnia.

"Continued coordination of the stance of the OAU, the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization], the non-aligned movement and the United Nations and supporting the activities on these levels to confront the economic and political challenges."

It has been agreed to convene the 10th session of the Joint Executive Committee in Libya during the second half of 1996. Issued in Algiers on 11 July 1995.

Secretary on 'Positive Results'

LD1207225995 Tripoli JANA in English 1709 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, 12 Jul (JANA) — Ahmed Attaf, the Algerian state secretary for cooperation and responsible for the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union, stressed the positive results of the meetings of the 9th Session of the Libyan-Algerian Arab Joint Executive Committee held in Algiers to enhance fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

In a statement to JANA on the fringe of the meetings of this committee, Attaf pointed out that the meeting of the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Liamine Zeroual in Tripoli last year and at Ain Amenas in Algeria this year gave further impetus to relations between the two countries.

He said that this session came to implement and carry out the agreements and pledges made in Tripoli and Ain Amenas and that all projects and current programmes of action are directed to the citizen so as to feel that the real Libyan Arab Actions are aimed at him.

He asserted that there are many scopes and possibilities available to the two sisterly countries and which if used will serve the interest of the citizen in both sisterly countries.

Committee Concludes Session

LD1107164895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ninth session of the Algerian-Libyan cooperation committee ended a short while ago, and our colleague Rachid Ben Hmimid has just contacted us. We now present to you his report:

[Begin Ben Hmimid's recording] A short while ago in El-Mithaq residence, Algiers, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and 'Abd al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan general people's committee presided over the final meeting of the ninth session of the Algerian-Libyan joint cooperation executive committee. They signed the minutes of the meetings of the session, which covered all the fields of cooperation between the two fraternal countries toward integration. [passage omitted]

The joint executive committee took several decisions to increase joint investments in industrial development, to expand trade exchanges, and attain agreement on development of the joint border areas. The committee also took decisions on integration in the domain of health, transport, communications, information, and culture. The committee expressed satisfaction at what had been realized in the domain of the electrical linkage between Libyan Ghadames and Algerian Deb Deb with the use of optical fibers, a step toward integration between the two countries. The committee also took decisions to increase trade exchanges between the two countries, to overcome all the difficulties impeding them, to invigorate the joint chamber of commerce and facilitate customs, administrative and banking procedures in order to secure a natural flow of home-produced goods, together with the development of border areas, and ensuring integration with the joint management of some new health institutions with regard to technical know-how and manpower. The decisions taken provide also for an intensification of political consultation and coordination of the positions of the two countries on issues of common interest. The 10th session of the Algerian-Libyan joint executive cooperation committee will be held in the Jamahiriyah in the second half of next year. [passage omitted] [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FIS Leader Rejects Blame for Dialogue Failure

MM1307100895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Kebir Tells AL-HAYAH: Salvation Front Always Willing To Resolve Crisis Peacefully"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday rejected the Algerian regime's accusation that it is responsible for the failure of the dialogue that the presidency held with its leaders. It reiterated that it is "always" willing to work for a peaceful solution to the crisis. This position, which Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee, announced in a statement to AL-HAYAH, represents the first official FIS reaction to the failure of the negotiations.

The parties to the National Covenant issued yesterday a statement which made no reference to the failure of the dialogue between the FIS and the authorities. However, it vehemently criticized the state's policies and the "security solution" it is pursuing.

The Algerian presidency announced the day before yesterday the failure of the dialogue with the FIS, accusing its leader, Shaykh Abass Madani, of backtracking on an agreement it had reached with him. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH asked Shaykh Rabeh Kebir yesterday his opinion of the authorities' position. He said that "the FIS is always willing to work for a just political solution to eradicate the crisis. That requires that the interlocutors enjoy the same level of freedom." He added: "As for trying to snatch an agreement inside the jail from prisoners, we consider it political blackmail, which is completely unacceptable. We also refuse to accept that the authorities should determine the principles for others to agree to, especially as they are a main party to the conflict, not an arbiter between two adversaries." He also said: "The Algerian people's suffering and blood prompt those who are loyal to their religion and homeland to make every effort to bring an end to that through a just and comprehensive solution and through negotiations between equal parties."

A spokesman for the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement (led by Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah) has pointed out that the movement will hold a meeting of its Shura council today and tomorrow to adopt a position on the issue of the dialogue between the FIS and the regime.

The parties to the National Covenant yesterday issued an "appeal to the Algerian people, urging them to make further efforts for the sake of achieving the collective ambition by mobilizing their energies and efforts so that negotiation and dialogue will triumph over confrontation with a view to securing a comprehensive, peaceful, just political solution in order to extricate ourselves from the crisis." As is known, the parties to the Covenant comprise seven Algerian parties and a human rights association. Their statement made no mention of the failure of the dialogue between the regime and the FIS. However, it condemned the "security solution policy" and the "authorities' disregard for democracy, human rights, and the views of others." The statement said that "the authorities recommend the use of torture." It also said that the victims of violence in Algeria "exceed 45,000 dead."

Opposition Newsletter Decries Military Interventions

MS1007144495 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 16 Jun 95

[Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 28 "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in Europe" — received via internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial — **The Algerian people to the Junta: Your project of assassinating the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] only costs lives but will never reach its objective!** Praise be to Allah Who Says: "Fain would they extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths, But Allah will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it)." (Koran Surat At-Tauba, 9:32) When the military Generals in Algeria are publicly asked why they have intervened in the political life of the country and obstructed the clean and clear victory of the FIS, they would answer as the old age Pharaoh did: "And Pharaoh said:" leave me to kill Moses; and let him call on his Lord! I fear he will change your religion, or he will spread mischief in the land!". (Koran Surat Gafir (Al-Mu-min), 40:26.)

The Generals argument about getting involved in what would have been a normal political transition of Algeria, is that the FIS would have send people to concentration camps in the Sahara desert such as those open by the Junta itself in Ain M'guel, Oued Namous, Ouargla,... They say that the FIS will ignite a civil war but their irresponsible act of the military coup d'etat of 11 January 1992 has caused the death of more than 50,000 people. They say that the FIS will torture people yet reports from international human rights organisations describe the use of systematic torture on a massive scale that makes the presence of the French paratroopers in Algeria during the 1954/62 war a mere session at the dentist. Revelations of those who has defected the Junta or have escaped from the country, are much more alarming. As a philosopher once said: "The bad

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

intentions are like bank notes, we lend them to others only when we ourselves have got them." In private, however, the Generals don't talk about their fears for Algeria but rather about themselves, the crimes they have committed and the illegal fortunes they have amassed.

Last Friday and answering the call of the principal political parties which have elaborated the "National contract" of the 13/01/95, more than 18 000 people have gathered at the Harcha sport centre in Algiers despite all kind of intimidation from the Junta. It was the first gathering since the coup d'etat of January 1992 which was independent from the Junta and clearly opposing its policies.

The "Algerian street" took this opportunity to speak and said loudly that the FIS is still alive and kicking! The same FIS slogans of 1991 were heard in last Friday's gathering. So why the sacrifice of more than 50,000 people and the making of much more orphans and widows for NOTHING?!!

The Junta Generals should have listen to some wise voices which told them in December 1991: "don't jump with Algeria into the unknown!". The Generals have preferred "the Elysee's advices"!

The declarations made by the FIS president, Dr Abbassi Madani, before his illegal arrest in 1991 are still describing well today's situation. The shaykh has declared about the opportunists who have found their way to the head of Algeria institutions and about the deep History of the Islamic movement in Algeria saying: "To those who pretend that the Islamic Salvation Front is a new conception with respect to their own existence, we ask: Where have they been when we were preparing the revolution of the 1st of November 1954? Where were they when we were preparing the struggle of the 8th of May 1945? Where were they when we were holding the torch of Islam in the association of Ulamah (scholars)?

Does the son come into existence before the grandfather? They may have thought they could mislead History? They may fool the living as they wish but they can never trick History." And to a French TV presenter who asked the shaykh about the FIS and the idea of an Islamic party in an "Islamic" country he answered: "Only Allah has the might to eradicate the FIS and who ever work for that aim has committed a crime because the authenticity of this movement is a strong reality which extends well deep into History. Algeria as you know, is a Muslim country and its Islamic experience is more than 13 centuries old. If we subtract the century of the colonialism from that period, we are left with an Islamic entity in its aspects of faith, worship, attitude, legislation, politics, economics and education. Algeria knew this shift from the path of authenticity only after the invasion of the colonialism and the implementation of France policies in Algeria."

The Junta has been diverting most of Algeria resources toward muzzling the Algerian people voice by importing latest oppression and torture equipments and by turning the army's regard inwardly.

The voice of the people has not change despite all the suffering as it did not change during the Algerian war and it will incha Allah stay the same. The more the Junta persist in putting the Algerian people head under its soldiers boots, the bigger the popular explosion will be.

Those responsible for the coup d'Etat of January 1992 still do not know the magnitude of the fire they have ignited. If they only read History!

Jihad and Mujahedeen News: Martyrs of Islam, the pride of the Ummah!

As the Ummah is mourning its victims from tragedies inflicted upon it in every corner of its land, Allah is choosing Martyrs amongst the believers as He has chosen martyrs in the battle of Badre.

Some of today's martyrs are known and some are not but for all, Allah has said: "Verily He will admit them to a place with which they shall be well pleased: For Allah is All-Knowing, Most forbearing" (Koran Surat Al Hajj, 22:59).

They have "sold" this dunia with all that is lovable in it such as family, friends the self etc..., to the One they love the most. Is there a more credible measure of sincerity than the physical sacrifice of the self for the faith? They have made a pact with Allah and they have stood by the pledge and leaving most of us behind excelling in the sine of the tongue. May Allah forgive us and raise our faith (Iman) to that of the sincere Mujahedeen whose only preoccupation is the constant agreement of Allah. Their relation to Allah is an "on-time" matter and they prefer anonymity to publicity and if it was not for the jihad support, they would have probably forbidden their heroic records to be published. They are the pride of the Ummah, and with their sacrifices, golden pages of Islamic History are written. They were looking in Allah's path while some of us were looking to improve their well being. They were in a constant fear of transgressing Allah commands while some of us were trembling from modern Pharaohs decrees. May Allah accept them as martyrs and admit them to jena. Amine.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jihad operations

"We don't like to" beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to grab the right of the people to freely choose." (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah Ali Belhadj in "Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992) Boufarik: On the 03/06/95 in an intense clash between the Mujahedeen and the Junta forces, the Mujahedeen have shot dead 15 Junta Gendarmes. Dellys: On the 3/06/95, the Mujahedeen have blow up five Junta vehicles of Nissan make. All the Junta soldiers were killed during the explosions. Zemoura: 17 Junta soldiers were killed resulting from the Mujahedeen exploding their military vehicle. Boukadir: In an intense battle which took place in Boukadir (West Algeria), the Mujahedeen have shot dead fifty Junta soldiers of darkness. Ghelizan: As many as forty Junta soldiers were killed in their two vehicles which were exploded by the Mujahedeen near the locality of Sidi Mohamed Ben Ali. Cite Yakhlef Cherrati (Ex-La montagne): The Mujahedeen have shot dead a Junta police chief on the 04/06/95. The Junta has demolished many habitations as a measure of collective punishment. Oued Slama: The Mujahedeen have shot dead 14 Junta soldiers on the 14/05/95. Ain Defla: On the 04/06/95, the Mujahedeen have shot dead 11 Junta soldiers. Boumerdess: The Mujahedeen have shot dead two Junta Police inspectors and collected their weapons. Blida: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta gendarme patrole and shot dead four of them.

Ain Bessam: The Mujahedeen have shot dead two Junta soldiers and collected their weapons. Bouzereah: The Mujahedeen have shot dead two Junta secret police agents and collected their weapons. Bourdj el Kiffan: The Mujahedeen have shot dead a Junta soldier and collected his weapon. Casbah: The Mujahedeen have shot dead two Junta secret police agents and collected their weapons. They also shot dead a Junta inspector called "Charly" who works in Belcourt centre.

So it may never be forgotten!

The Junta atrocity against the Algerian people: ("State terrorism and military democracy!")

Refinement in the art of war against children and women!

On Thursday the 01/06/95, a massive military convoy under the command of a colonel, chief of military sector with the participation of the wali (prefect, governor) of Skikda (East of Algeria) was headed towards the locality of Kanoua in the county of Collo situated in the region of Skikda. From there, they headed toward the village of Azerdez. At around five in the afternoon, the soldiers assembled all the children and women of the village then took three prisoners from the military vehicles whom they have brought with them to show to the people of the village. They shot them dead in front of the children and the women. They told the women and children that: "from now on if we catch any of your men we will bring him here and shot him in front of you." They, then ordered the children to put their hands up and to turn their back while threatening of shooting them too. This scene lasted quite long and at the end, the soldiers told the children that: "for now we leave you alive but we will come back and next time it is going to be your turn". The convoy then headed by the wali (prefect, governor) went to the house of Shaykh Rabah Kebir's mother which has been dynamited few months ago. The women of the village were asked about the whereabout of Rabah Kebir's mother, his brother's wife and her children the oldest of whom is ten years old. They threaten the women of the village demanding from them the whereabouts of Kebir's family.

The Junta expeditive injustice and the killing of an elected FIS deputy!

The Junta "court of Injustice" has latelly "distributed" 73 death sentences in a period of three weeks. Following is an example of how such "Tribunals" legalise assassination of innocent people be it an elected deputy.

This is the story of Hocine Abderrahim, an elected FIS candidate who has successively won the ballot verdict in the first round of the 26/12/1991 elections.

He was arrested on the 6/9/92 accused of Algiers airport bombing which took place on the 26/08/93. His "confession" was transmitted on national TV. The famous lawyer maitre Jacque Verges has said about this particular "confession on TV", in his book (" An open letter to some Algerian friends who have became torturers") : " They have been arrested 20 days ago and were immediately put to the "question" (term used by the French paratroopers to designate torture). Those like myself who thirty years ago had the honour of assisting men and women who got out from the military detention centres of Algiers, have recognised the unfathomable look, the tumefied faces and the shaking of the hands of the people who come back from hell. These mediatised confession have not convinced anybody anyway!". (End of quotation)

Here is an extract of Hocine Abderahim trial in May 1993: Hocine Abderrahim: "Allah is witness, I have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nothing to do with the airport case. All this has been fabricated in order to tarnish the image of the Muslims and of Islam in Algeria. It is impossible for a Muslim to kill innocents or to put a bomb in an airport. I repeat I have got nothing to do with this case. We want the public opinion to know.

I have been taken twice to the military hospital of Ain-Naadja in a state of coma. At one time they have presented me to the hospital under the name of Ben Abderrahmane Mohamed where many stitches were put on my head. On that day, as soon as I came back from the hospital they took me to Hydra for questioning one more time. I have answered: I swear in front of Allah that I have nothing to do with the airport case, they kicked me right on the wound and saying to me: "now drink your blood ". I would have answered positively had they asked me if I had killed my father and mother or if I was the one responsible for the earthquake of Chlef or Nador..."

The president of the tribunal told him that all this was not reported on the file and that his wound was of his own doing as he has banged his head on a wall.

At 12.20, Abderrahim asked for a break saying that they have waked him up at 3.00 A.M in order to bring him here. The president told him that according to him he has been here since 9.00 A.M.

At another time Hocine Abderahman declares: "I have been arrested on the 6/9/92.

The president: In the police report you have been on the 6/10/92 and you were transferred to the judge on the 8th.

Hocine Abderahim: What??! The 6th of October!...For you mister president, it is a police report. For me it is a report of torture. And you have the courage of saying I was arrested on the 6th october. The President: Yes, I have that courage, It is written on the police report.

At the end Hocine Abderahman could not stand it any more and started vomiting blood from his ulcer.

It was under these conditions of trial that the elected deputy was sentenced to death and executed on the 31/08/93.

Big gathering of the political opposition in Algiers!

To the call of the principal Algerian political parties which have elaborated the "national contract" document, more than 18,000 people were gathered in Harcha sport centre in Algiers last Friday the 09/06/95.

Every single place was taken in the 14,000 places sport centre except the two or three hundred sites situated behind the officials loge which were forbidden to the public. A big crowd could not get into the covered area of the centre and stayed in the courtyard and in the vicinity of the centre.

The objective of the organisers was to prove that they do have a real popular support which the Junta should take into consideration. The Junta has rejected up to now the propositions of those parties which has won more than 80 percent of the votes in the first multipartism elections of December 1991. The rejection was one more time reiterated by the Junta last Sunday.

It was the first time that political parties and personalities participate with the FIS in a popular gathering.

The authorities have tried to the last minute to discourage such meeting by intensifying mass arrest on Thursday and Friday in the cities of Algiers, Blida and Tipaza.

The political leaders of the FIS who are not in Jail (Shaykh Ali Djeddi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Kamel Guemazi) were not allowed by the Junta to take part in the meeting. However the FIS militants were massively present and chanted the FIS slogans such as "Dawla Islamiya" (Islamic State) and "Ya Ali ya Abbasse al Jebha rahi labass" (Oh! Ali Belhadj Oh! Abbassi Madani, the FIS is still alright).

A day before the meeting, the Junta has suspended three newspapers for having published a call to the meeting signed by the principal political parties including the FIS. The raison stated by the Junta Minister of communication was that the papers has published the signature of a party that has been banned, meaning the FIS. But the real popular support to the FIS was shown during the meeting and this alone demonstrate that the "party of the majority of the Algerian people" does not die by a stroke of a pen!

The culminant point in the Junta eager to sabotage the meeting, came when the organisers were informed by the Junta that the two or three hundred places behind the officials loge should be left empty for "security raisons"! The real raison was known latter when the Junta newspapers showed photographs of the empty seats to say that it was a disaster. The "Algerian", "National" and "Public" TV has boycotted the meeting and everything to do with the principal parties. In his speech, the president of the "Algerian league for the defence of human rights", maitre Ali Yahyia Abdenour, told the audience that: "the authorities has reproached us to have met outside Algeria, now here we are in Algeria, so why this media black out and obstacles? This shows that the authorities are not serious about finding a peaceful political solution to the crisis!".

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It is to note that at the end of the gathering and as the people started to disperse without any incident, the Junta has made many arrests to intimidate future participants.

Who killed Yamaha and why?

The mascot of the Algerian soccer "Yamaha" has been murdered last Sunday in the popular town of Belcourt. He has been shot by an "armed group" according to the Junta news agency APS. Who is "Yamaha"? "Yamaha" is the name given to a twine brothers from the town of Belcourt. Their real names are Hacene Dihimi and Hocine Dihimi and it is this latter who has been assassinated may Allah have mercy on him. From their young age the brothers were an integral part of the Algerian soccer team. They were very popular and loved by all the people as they were good at bringing a smile and a laugh to the people particularly when there is a crowd gathering. The last time "Yamaha" has been seen in public was last Friday in the Harcha sport centre during the big popular gathering. Yamaha lived a hundred yards from Harcha and all his family were practising muslims. When one hears about such crimes, one can not help but quote few lines from the recent book of the specialist of Islam Dr Francois Burgat, "L'Islamisme en face", La Decouverte edition, Paris, May 1995. Following are some extracts from the book: "A multitude of witness reports incite in thinking that the "Islamists disguised in military uniforms" have more often hidden in fact simple...military men under commanded duty. To pivot the population, the whole population, in the "anti-terrorists" camp. In fact it was more appropriate that this terrorism producer of political dividends, does not touch the regime representatives only but all categories of the society. Forbidding the publication of the regime losses, the "official information" has quickly become : reporting civilian violence attributed exclusively to the islamists. Behind this screen, daily reprisals of the security forces against the "maquisards" (the Mujahedeen)'s families have been attributed to these latter (Mujahedeen) and actions of night harassment (intimidation, thefts, sexual aggressions) have been also attributed to "Islamists disguised in Military uniforms". These crimes were committed in all sections of the society and put under the name of armed groups. Many of the most mediatised assassinations of PERSONALITIES CHOSEN FOR THEIR POPULARITY IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION ARE CERTAINLY TO BE PUT UNDER THIS CHAPTER. [as received] The "absolute" proofs are not available yet but there are very intense rays of witnessing and signs which converge to the fact that the victims are dead for the sole purpose of the profit their murderers thought of getting from the repulsion inspired to the fans of the victims. Every section of the public opinion have been carefully targeted, each social mobilisation, ethnical or socio-cultural in order to try to deviate it from its natural path and make it an instrument against the Islamist camp: the women of course but also the students, the soccer (football) or Rai lovers, the Berbers, the moderate Islamists, etc. Frictions that were dormant or non- existent have been exploited, others reinforced when they were not credible enough (football,rai), even invented from scratch or almost (university, school, consumers) when they did not exist." (End of quotation)

Yamaha has a lot of fans, the Junta TV has not stop talking about him and showing pictures of him, interviewing his friends who are very sad and depressed by the news may Allah give them patience. The Junta is however overdoing it which makes one wonder if the Algerian people are going to forget what has happen in Harcha sport centre just a day and a half before the dead of Yamaha or was that also a part of the profit Dr Burgat was talking about earlier and well before this tragedy happened.

Hocine! may Allah have mercy on you and give your family patience! Amine.

Reportage from behind the iron curtain: What a reporter has seen in Algeria! (4)

This is the fourth and last part of the reportage completed recently by Robert Fisk-journalist in the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT. On his return to England, Robert Fisk has written a lengthy report on Algeria which was published in THE INDEPENDENT on Sunday" of 16/04/95. Following is the rest of the report which includes added titles: The confiscated independence: Thus did the betrayal of the revolution against France lead to a historical repetition. As the FLN's dictators corrupted their country, so their original victory came to be seen as a betrayal, their Francophone, Western (if originally Soviet-style) clique a poor copy of the old French colonial regime. Their French culture — what Algerians refer to as "the damned inheritance" — suggested that nothing had changed.

No wonder, then,that the current Algerian leadership are acknowledging, at last, the nature of the threat which faces them. When the Algeria prime minister Mokdad Sifi asked me if I knew who Bouyali was, it was a kind of watershed, an acknowledgement of Bouyali's historical role, of the connections which bound him to the past as well as to the present. The 1954-62 conflict was a civil war as well as a war of independence; Algeria was locked in an iron corset by years of post-war dictatorship. When the iron rusts, history picks up where it left off.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dictators cooperation against Islamists!

The embattled Algerian government, having cast around the Middle-East for inspiration in their struggle against "fundamentalist terrorism" have now started a two-sided propaganda and military offensive against their enemies. Producing pamphlets and booklets on the roots of Islamic revivalism, they are trying to persuade foreign journalists that the roots of Algeria's "terrorism" lie in the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, in Pakistan, even in Saudi Arabia. Less fantastic, however, is the delegation of high-ranking Algerian army intelligence officer which has been touring Arab capitals, most recently Cairo and Damascus, in the hope of learning how to combat the Islamist guerrilla armies. Did they find some inspiration in Syria's recent history? In 1982, the Syrians crushed an armed Islamic uprising in the city of Hama, using heavy artillery and tanks and killing thousands of armed fundamentalists and taking no prisoners.

Algeria is a country whose history has remained unresolved and whose search for an identity — colonised, corrupted used by worthless regimes — lies now at the heart of its tragedy. Islam, as it was embodied in the principles of the old FLN revolution, was betrayed. Democracy, when it was eventually tried, failed — because elections were cancelled when they produced the "wrong result". "We shall have to wipe out these people, exterminate them," an old "moudjahed" said to me last month, sipping whisky in the Hotel St George. "What can you do with throat-slashers, murderers, terrorists?"

But, I said, these are your people. They are Algerians. There could be up to 5 million Algerians supporting the FIS. The old man looked into his whisky glass. And then, almost without hesitation, he said: "So we shall have to exterminate 5 million." (End of the article).

Duaa

We have been informed that brother Dr Kalim Siddiqui had a hearth attack last week and that he is at the moment under intensive care. We ask Allah (S.W.T) to facilitate his recovery so that he will be back soon amongst his family and the muslim community in Britain.

Note

"The Enlightenment" would like to thank all those who are participating by their contribution in publicising the just cause of the Algerian people. May Allah rewards you for that. Amine.

Saddam's Envoy Makes Statement, Departs

JN1107184495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 11 Jul (INA)—Shabib Lazim al-Maliki, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and minister of justice, has concluded a three-day visit to Algeria.

During the visit, the envoy of his excellency the president relayed a message from his excellency the president to his brother the Algerian president on the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the need for the UNSC to fulfill its commitments by lifting the Iraq embargo, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its international commitments.

In a press statement at Houari Boumedienne Airport, Shabib al-Maliki said that he relayed the greetings of the Iraqi people to the fraternal Algerian people, as well as the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and Iraq's appreciation of the Algerian people's fraternal stands toward Iraq.

For his part, Algerian Minister of Justice Mohamed Adami expressed his appreciation of Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the embargo.

In a statement to the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Algiers, Adami added that Iraq and Algeria are parts of the same body. Hence, the relationship between the two countries is strong and robust, as President Zeroual said during the meeting he held with the envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The Algerian minister hoped that Iraq will defeat the embargo.

Foreign Minister Returns From 'Positive' Moscow Trip

LD1307093095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri returned to Algeria yesterday evening following a working visit that took him to Moscow at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

Before leaving Moscow, Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri made a statement in which he pointed out that his visit was positive in all its aspects. It enabled him to discuss bilateral Algerian-Russian cooperation on the basis of the transformations and changes taking place in the two

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

countries to entrench democracy and enter the market economy.

Mr. Dembri added that this visit has been an opportunity to hold political consultations at the highest level between the two countries on all international issues. He said that on the level of economic relations, the foreign ministries in the two countries have decided to promote relations on the basis of partnership. He added that in this connection, a program was drawn up for several meetings to take place in the coming weeks between economic investors, the Chamber of Commerce, and the development organizations.

On bilateral cooperation, Mr. Kozyrev said that Russia has decided to keep its representatives in Algeria now that Algeria had taken measures to guarantee their security.

Company Announces New Oil Well Operational

LD1007162795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sonatrach company has announced that the oil well known as Bir Rebaa North, has been operational since 12 June. This well was discovered in collaboration with the Italian company Agip. It is situated 300 km east of Hassi Messaoud and 700 km south of the capital. Initial production is estimated at 3,000 barrels per day [bpd]. This will gradually rise to 30,000 bpd during July. It is expected that production will reach 50,000 bpd late this year when two other oil wells become operational. These are Bir Rebaa West and Bir Rebaa Southwest.

Egypt

Sudan Security Releases 4 of 8 Detained Workers

Detainees Deported From Khartoum

NC1307112595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 13 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities this morning deported to Cairo four of the eight employees of the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Works company who were detained in Sudan. The Egyptian nationals, who were deported on an Egyptian plane, are Engineers Ahmad Hamid 'Abd-al- Mu'ti, Midhat Sadiq 'Atiyah, and Ayman Ahmad Fu'ad, in addition to warehouse keeper Faruq Taha Mubarak.

Four more employees are still being detained by the Sudanese authorities. They are Mahmud al-Rashidi, Sayyid Khalid, Kamal Shibl, and Barsum Nasif.

The Sudanese authorities seized the eight detainees' passports and airline tickets from the company's branch. The reasons behind the continuing detention of the remaining nationals are still unclear.

Deportees Arrive in Cairo

NC1307114595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Four employees of the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Works Company branch in Khartoum returned to Cairo today. They were deported by the Sudanese authorities at dawn today after a five-day detention. [passage omitted]

The returnees talked about deteriorating living conditions in Sudan and the frenzied price hikes. They said that a loaf of bread is being sold at 20 Sudanese pounds and that some people there suffice themselves with breakfast. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Egypt-Sudan Tensions

Al-Baz on Threat From Sudan's NIF

MM1207143095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Usamah al-Baz Stresses Special Relationship Between Egypt And Sudan; Cairo Did Not Expect Islamic Front To Turn Against It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs and first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, has described the status of relations between Egypt and Sudan as "complex as a result of their special nature and the diversity of the elements involved in them." He said that these elements include the ties of the Nile waters passing through the two countries' territories, the strategic depth, and kinship.

He stressed that in the light of the existence of these ties, the equality between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, and the existence of no prejudice against Sudan in Egypt, Cairo did not expect or believe that "the National Islamic Front [NIF] would turn against Egypt or seek to cause instability in the region." He added: "But they began step by step to establish an axis with Iran, hence threatening Egyptian national security."

Citing an example of the equality and the Egyptian opening up to Sudan, he said that Shaykh Nur-al-Hasan, a Sudanese, was shaykh of al-Azhar in Cairo; and Shaykh al-Khidr Husayn, a Tunisian, was also

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

shaykh of al-Azhar. He pointed out that some regimes in Khartoum, even in the days of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Ummah Party, adopted anti-Egyptian policies by concluding alliances with other parties or through a desire to move away from Egypt. But that did not at any time reach the current situation under the NIF.

He said that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi participated in ruling Sudan under various successive regimes. He added that al-Turabi's thinking in the days of former President Ja'far Numayri was "associated with [the ideology] of the May 1969 movement, through which Numayri reached power. And in the days of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi his thinking was in line with the Ummah Party's line. But he is now leading the NIF, "which is adopting policies posing a threat to both Egypt and Sudan," as well as the states of the region.

He pointed out that the NIF organization is now in control of all state establishments in Khartoum, such as the Armed Forces, the government, and the Foreign Ministry, in addition to the unions and the Education Ministry organ. He said that this gives the Front's organization the opportunity to penetrate the ranks of the young.

Dr. al-Baz, who was speaking to some members of the Egyptian community in London, said that Sudan has now become a center for the international fundamentalist movement, whose members received military training in Peshawar, Pakistan, in order to participate in the war to liberate Afghanistan from the Soviet presence in the eighties. He said, "we were all implicated in supporting them then. But it was to do with fighting the Soviet presence in Afghanistan." He said that the Americans trained fundamentalist elements in 55 ways of carrying out terrorist operations, including how to ride motorcycles on unpaved roads or on a slope covered with oil, firing at targets, differentiating between the speech of attacker and target in order to achieve accuracy, using various weapons.

He said that training locations have now been moved to Sudan, and the camps are situated on farms remote from the cities. In the camps terrorism expertise such as armed attacks, murder by poisons, and other methods are conveyed to new generations of extremists. He added that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi does not rule on his own. But he controls the reins of power in Sudan through his men, members of the NIF, who have penetrated all positions.

Commentary Urges Action Against Regime

NC1207144195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Will the Sudanese People Act Before They Lose Their Homeland?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All the signs show that Sudan's ruling regime, led by the duo al-Turabi and al-Bashir, is moving toward the abyss. This was demonstrated by a meeting held recently in Frankfurt by patriotic Sudanese brothers who oppose al-Bashir's erroneous practices against neighboring countries and Arab and Islamic countries.

The Khartoum government's claim that it plans to step up military activity in south Sudan is designed to delude the public into thinking that Sudanese northerners face a threat from the citizens of the south and hence that the stringent security measures imposed on the people are necessary to maintain order and stability.

But the facts contradict the lies spread by the Sudanese ruling circles. Stepping up military activity in south Sudan is intended to remove army commanders and army strike units from the capital, especially as the masses of the people expect the army to intervene to rid them of the tyrannical clique that, since it seized power, has inflicted on the Sudanese people the worst time they have ever experienced. The Sudanese people's isolation resulting from the vile conspiracies in which the regime's leaders participated has increased the public's hardships, hardships that stem from their leaders' stupidity and misadministration. Sudanese standards of living have dropped to the lowest possible level despite enough natural resources, illustrated by fertile land and water, capable of turning Sudan into a rich country.

But Sudan's rulers insist on ruining the country and turning the Sudanese people into mercenaries, terrorists, and saboteurs trained in camps run by the Sudanese regime's officers and agents and then sent to neighboring countries to undermine their security and destabilize them.

We assert that the irresponsible acts of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime are the beginning of the end. All the facts have been revealed and all the masks have fallen.

Sudanese freemen, estimated at several million scattered throughout the world's capitals, who fled the tyranny of the ruler and his henchmen, have exposed al-Bashir's regime and revealed the concealed horrors acted out against their brothers in the ghosthouses [reference to alleged detention and torture centers in Sudan]. The regime has no recourse, but to depart Sudan and give Sudan's sons the opportunity to restore their relations

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with the neighboring countries on foundations of good neighborliness, particularly as everything is not yet lost between the Sudanese people and the neighboring Arab and African nations.

We say these words to protect the interests of our Sudanese brothers, who face the threat of losing their homeland as a result of their leaders' folly and their conspiracies against neighboring countries.

Unless the Sudanese people act to remedy these errors, an exorbitant price will certainly be paid. It will be too late for remorse then.

Authorities Said To 'Move' Residences

NC1207162495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jul 95 p 9

[From "The Brothers Page"; placenames as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese security authorities have started extensive activities to secure the terrorist elements throughout Sudan, particularly in the capital Khartoum. The Sudanese authorities have changed the places of residence of most of the terrorist cadres and limited their activities in Khartoum's streets.

Eyewitnesses coming from Sudan say the Sudanese authorities previously offered terrorist leaders licenses to manage some tourist cafeterias in the Khartoum Airport area. Some Egyptian elements work in the 'Akka Gardens around the airport. Clandestine bulletins released in Khartoum report that the presence of these elements in the airport area is considered part of the security process for the airport and the military area, which includes the buildings of the general command and security bodies. The sources do not rule out the possibility that the tourist areas have been transformed into a private weapons' arsenal, after Sudanese citizens stopped frequenting these places, which are now empty except for a few bearded Arabs, Sudanese security men, and militias who frequent these places to buy food and sweets and spend leisure time.

Some Tunisian elements are located on the outskirts of the capital in the al-Kalaklah District and al-Mahlaj military area in Habl al-Awliya'.

Editorial on Iranian Red Sea Presence

NC1307100395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Iranian Presence in the Red Sea Threatens Egypt's Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Just today something we had cautioned against two days ago was confirmed. We said the Iranian naval military presence in the Red Sea, particularly in Sudanese territorial water, represents a threat to pan-Arab security and the Arabism of the Red Sea.

Sudanese opposition sources have stated that Port Sudan has been used as a staging point by the Iranian naval fleet to carry out its operations in the Red Sea. The Iranian fleet is made up of eight units in addition to minesweepers. But that is not all. The opposition sources revealed that Sudan has concluded a deal, allowing for leasing this vital port to the Iranian Armed Forces. According to the deal, many Iranian army commanders move freely in Sudan. The sources said that 2,000 Iranian troops are stationed near Port Sudan. We do not believe there will be concessions worse than those already made, harming Sudanese sovereignty over this vital port.

The ruling military command in Khartoum will be tried by the people now and in future for this crime of allowing an Iranian military presence in the Red Sea. The ayatollahs' government in Iran never thought of obtaining such a concession. The Sudanese regime in Khartoum has enabled the Iranian regime to set foot in Africa for the first time since the Persian invasion of Egypt by Gambyses. The Sudanese regime is also accused of granting Iran a naval base to be used as a staging point to play havoc with pan-Arab security in the Red Sea.

The al-Bashir-al-Turabi gang would be wrong to think this crime could go unpunished by the Arabs. Allowing a foreign naval force in the Red Sea would relinquish Arab sovereignty over this sea, which is one of the most important naval routes in the world. The Iranian presence represents a threat to navigation in the Suez Canal.

We must not keep silent about this Iranian presence, which threatens Egyptian national security.

Chieftains Support, Congratulate Mubarak

NC1307105595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Ghardaqah, 13 Jul (MENA)—Some 100 chieftains representing the different tribes in the Hala'ib-Shalatayn-Abu-Ramad southern triangle in the Red Sea Governorate led a march to Cairo this morning to voice support and allegiance to President Mubarak and congratulate him on escaping the frustrated assassination attempt in Addis Ababa last month.

Red Sea Governor Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'id attended an expanded popular rally last night. The chieftains and inhabitants of the southern triangle and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

over 1,000 members of the al-Bashshariyah and al-'Ababidah tribes took part in the rally together with the People's Assembly and Consultative Council members and popular and executive leaders in the area of Hala'ib.

The participants denounced the lowly attempt and renewed their allegiance to President Mubarak.

'Terrorist' Killed, 2 Arrested as Hideouts Stormed

NC1207155395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—The State Security forces backed by various departments of the Interior Ministry today terminated a fugitive terrorist in Bani Suwayf and arrested two terrorists during a campaign in which they stormed hideouts in the south of the valley.

A responsible Interior Ministry security source who made the statement said that in the State Security forces' operations to track down the terrorists and strike their dens they located four hideouts in Markaz Biba in Bani Suwayf Governorate. At dawn today, after planning all the measures in detail, they stormed the hideouts. The forces surrounded the dens to be met by a hail of bullets. This compelled the forces to respond. The shoot-out left one terrorist dead—'Abd-al-'Aziz Amin Imam al-Sharif. He was hiding in a hideout in the al-Mashariq District in Markaz Biba. Terrorists Khalid Jawdah 'Abd-al-Ghani and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Muhammad Talab Hindawi were arrested.

The security source said terrorist 'Abd-al-'Aziz Amin Imam al-Sharif was born in 1965 and was a student at the Arts College in al-Minya University. He was an active element and was known for adopting the most extreme methods of violence. He was arrested and detained repeatedly, the last time in 1991, in an attempt to contain his extremist activities.

The source added that this terrorist was responsible for many terrorist groups that come under the organization he belonged to. He provided them with the necessary weapons and explosives to carry out operations of violence. He also participated in implementing the operations. He was wanted for many cases and assassinations, among them Case No. 2358/88 al-Minya, acts of violence, and Case No. 3110/94 of Markaz Ihnasiya for delinquency, attempting to assassinate an investigations officer in Markaz Ihnasiya, and establishing groups to carry out acts of violence and assassination operations.

This terrorist previously dispatched members of his organization to Cairo and al-Jizah Governorates to monitor the moves of public and police personalities so that they could be targeted in terrorist operations after the monitoring was complete. But the members who were doing the monitoring were arrested and legal measures were taken against them.

The security source that an automatic rifle bearing the number 3454 and a magazine containing five 7.62 caliber bullets and 13 empty bullets of the same caliber were found with the terrorist. One 9-mm revolver, serial number 5981, with six bullets of the same caliber inside, was also found.

The security source pointed out that the investigation forces are continuing their inspection with the help of the explosives experts.

The stormings resulted in the arrest of terrorist Khalid Jawdah 'Abd-al-Ghani, a resident of Markaz Biba in Bani Suwayf, where he was born in 1970. He participated in carrying out many terrorist operations, acts of violence, and assassinations. An 8.5-mm revolver was found on him. It is a Berta [name as received] make and contained seven bullets.

Terrorist 'Abd-al-Wahhab Muhammad Talab Hindawi, born in 1961, who has an agriculture diploma and is employed by the Egyptian Company for Foodstuffs in (Samsaka), was also arrested. He has taken part in monitoring the movements of targets prior to carrying out terrorist operations. The prosecution has been informed to proceed with investigations.

Social, Political Violence in al-Minya Viewed

95LD0073A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 May 95 pp 12-13

[Article by Hamdi Rizq in al-Minya, including part of interview with Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, the director of security in al-Minya, by Hamdi Rizq; place and date not given: "After the Terror, the War of Nerves Begins"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was not strange for 24 people to be killed in the battle of Mi'sarah Hujjaj in Bani-Mazar after prayers last Friday, nor was it surprising that murderous gangs went on the move in that area to settle their scores with the corpses of the innocent, fearless of being pursued by the security forces, who were busy combating defeated extremists on the outskirts of al-Minya, where the security men are now achieving significant successes.

Because the words "if only" always open the door to doubts and recriminations, that village, whose population does not exceed 7,000, has not only opened the door to doubt; it has opened the doors to Hell itself on the heads of worshippers who were performing their religious duty in safety before the bullets rang out from the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

roofs of the tiny houses, while the lives of two dozen of its young men and girls were taken away at one stroke. A third dozen are enduring the agony of their death in the Bani-Mazar Central Hospital, which has been transformed into a huge morgue to take in shrouds and send out corpses to the poor cemeteries in the heart of the mountain.

Why? What if?... A strange question with many answers. If only Rajab Mar'i, the brother Jamal Mar'i, the big pirate of the Mar'i family, had found, on one side of the battle, anyone who would listen to his appeals last Thursday night, which he made at the police station in Mi'sarah Hujjaj. The watchmen said the family of Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim attacked their homes with guns until security forces were able to detain both sides and curb the slaughter which had begun at nine o'clock Thursday evening and lasted until two o'clock Friday afternoon.

If only the police had not ignored the disappearance of Sha'ban Mar'i, 30, whose body still has not been found 55 days later. If the whole village's talk of his suspicious disappearance had been true, the Mar'i family would not have precipitated the massacre by demanding the blood of 'Id Bakr, the major criminal of Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim's family, and threatening revenge. The slaughter began, and the massacre fed on his enemy's family before they could get him.

A third if: if only the investigating officer had examined the point "located 500 meters from the site of the incident" and the station's criminal investigation officer had examined the point some 7 kilometers from the bloody Friday site—for the security reports indicate the presence of more than 10 people with histories, dangerous people with Class A, B, and C thefts, premeditated murder, gangsterism, and drug offenses—and started surveillance of them, they would never have committed that crime.

Another if and not the last: if only the security agencies had kept up their raids on this village (which had grown used to occasional punitive raids and campaigns to cleanse it of dangerous elements) from 3 April 1994 until the time of the massacre, the criminals of the two gangs would have known that the hand of security was strong and that the police would not ignore their crimes.

Worse yet, the security services left behind the senior watchman, Lamlum Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim, on the job, so that he could monitor the village armed with a weapon. He was in an open feud with the Mar'i family. Instead of monitoring the dangerous people and reporting them, he began to monitor the movements of his enemies' family and made a plan of action to trap Bakr's family. This led the Director of Security to suspend him and take away his weapon and to question him as soon as the incident occurred.

The Sha'ban Mystery

Perhaps it was a massacre that came and went, but there were grave circumstances, especially in two aspects. First was the 55-day disappearance of Sha'ban Mar'i, from which he still has not reappeared, either living or dead. His brother Hasan openly accuses 'Id Bakr of abducting and killing him and hiding his body. He says 'Id did this all the time with his enemies; his latest victim was Rida Muhammad Rajih, whom he abducted two years ago, and his body has not turned up yet. Indeed, 'Id tried to kill Rida's wife and children in the last massacre after opening the door of their house and firing a burst of machine gun fire as they were eating their lunch. This is confirmed by Sha'ban's wife Sumah Ahmad 'Abd-al-Latif, 25, who says that 'Id kidnapped Sha'ban; she emphatically denies that Sha'ban had gone on a trip to Jordan as he sometimes did. She says that his corpse is there, somewhere in one of the Bakr family's farms. 'Id could certainly locate the place if the victim were alive or the grave if he was dead. Sumah received a bullet wound to the chest and now lies under heavy guard in the Bani-Mazar Hospital.

When I asked Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, the Director of Security of al-Minya, about the mystery of Sha'ban's disappearance, he said that his disappearance does not mean he was kidnapped. "Most of the young men here travel to the Arab countries without anyone's knowledge, although there are doubts about 'Id because he had differences with Sha'ban over the ransom relating to the theft of livestock, which had been carried out by Sha'ban but spoiled by 'Id." The Director of Security added that this was the visible cause of the incident; the hidden causes were the struggle for influence in that desert region among the families engaging in gangsterism and trying to gain influence over the people. Thieves and brigands, he said, are always trying to wipe each other out to hold power alone.

Perhaps this was very true, especially as 'Abd-al-Nadi Ibrahim, station chief in Bani-Mazar who assumed his job three years ago, still points out that the influence of those gangs is so strong that they control the marketplaces with machine guns and pistols, that the youngest boys carried unlicensed rifles on their shoulders. Most of them belonged to gangs that steal livestock and irrigation equipment and break into houses at night, whose power has grown to its highest point recently. Why? The man does not answer, but he says, "Ask the Director of Security." There are some who answer that the police managed the emergence of these people and ini-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

tiated the attacks on the nests of terrorists, seizing the opportunity to blow everything out of proportion.

File of Criminal Records

The second aspect of the circumstances surrounding the incident is the presence of this dangerous group of criminals in a small village such as Mi'sarah Hujjaj, with no surveillance or even attention paid to the danger they represented. As of the time of writing, seven of them are fugitives; 11 of the accused were investigated, and one of these, Jamal Mar'i, was chased 100 meters by 'Id 'Abd-al-Rahim with his machine gun until he finished him off. 'Id then chased his brothers Ahmad and Hasan as far as the agricultural road, where they were saved from certain death by a pickup truck. The first sustained two bullet wounds in the back of his neck; the second received a deep wound in his right thigh. Four automatic rifles and a number of carbines were seized, and the homes of both families are still being searched.

We have culled the record of the criminal records of these murderous criminals. The dossier is absolutely huge, and there are many examples, among them the major troublemaker Sha'ban Mar'i, who according to the security dossier was wanted in seven cases: in Bani-Mazar criminal case 87/6713, for receiving weapons and ammunition without a license; in Bani-Mazar criminal case 90/3043, also for receiving weapons and ammunition without a license; and the person charged in misdemeanor case number 2181 for stealing livestock was Muhammad Isma'il; this was the case that set off the blood bath in the whole area.

On the other hand, in the Abu-Bakr family, there is one familiar criminal, 'Id Abu-Bakr, who is now in jail following the Friday battle. He turned himself in voluntarily at the Matay station before being taken to an unidentified place. His security dossier says that he was registered as Class B threat, number 157, murder during the commission of a robbery and gangsterism, and was arrested in accordance with Resolution 8 of 1995 issued on 19 December 1988, due to the security threat he represented. He was released on 10 February 1992 by Cabinet Resolution 677 of 1992. In his cases there are seven charges for which he is sought, including arson in 1986, for which he was sentenced to two years in prison with labor, and battery resulting in death in 1987.

The rest of the accused were of the same ilk as the first and the second. There is Rabi' Hasanayn, with three cases of arson and weapons possession; Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahim, receiving weapons; Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahim Diyab, battery resulting in death and premeditated murder, and attempted murder in Bani-Mazar case 69/3520, suspended for insufficient evidence; with Hammadah Abu-Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim, the brother of the killer 'Id, Case 1/8629, battery, and Bani-Mazar misdemeanor case 91/6936, were also brought against him because of his habit of beating up his enemies from rival families. The most dangerous criminal of either family is Abu-Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim Diyab, the plotter of the recent incident who has a serious criminal record for two offenses: case 66A, theft and gangsterism, and case C303, a class B drug offense. He was arrested on 20 January 1970 and arrested again on 9 September 1974 in accordance with 11974 Resolution 1791 of the deputy general military governor. He was arrested yet again on 19 December 1988 in accordance with Resolution 88/2865 but released to be with 'Id Abu-Bakr, who planned and carried out last Friday's crime.

Interview

These are examples of the sort of criminals who lived in that village, which was generally guarded by an officer, no more than five soldiers, and no more than 10 watchmen, under the command of a timid senior watchman like Lamlum 'Abd-al-Rahim (now suspended). It is now firmly under Security control, led by Major General al-Sayyid Badawi, Major General 'Umar's deputy for the northern sector. Hence our first question in a long interview with Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, the Director of Security in al-Minya was: Is such a small number of police sufficient to protect a village a swarming with criminals as this one?

['Umar] (calmly) A sense of security comes not from the number; rather there is a feeling of security, and I believe we have achieved that in this area and in other stations in al-Minya.

[Rizq] So what is your explanation for the recent incident?

['Umar] A war of nerves, and killers trying to settle scores with others, coincidentally combined with Friday prayers as worshippers came out. That increased the number because of the random shooting.

[Rizq] Doesn't that number of casualties bother you?

['Umar] Absolutely, especially because of the number among the two families and the expectations in Upper Egypt, with the presence of feuds and vendettas, which were aggravated by the disappearance of Sha'ban and each family's attempt to impose itself through gangsterism. My concern is the ordinary citizen I am assigned to protect.

[Rizq] It would seem that you have put political security ahead of criminal security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Umar] Absolutely. There is a balanced plan for both sides. The lowest rate of incidents al-Minya has experienced came in the period I spent here, starting last 8 January. The map of al-Minya itself says so. The north and central areas, which include Bani-Mazar, Samalut, Maghaghah, al-'Udawh, and Matay in the north, and al-Minya, Bandar al-Minya, and Abi-Qarqas in the central area, are calm, and extremism has ended there, with the exception of some elements in Abi-Qarqas. In the southern region, which includes Malwa, Bandar Malwa, and the station at Dayr Mawas, some elements are still active, and we are working to bring them under control.

The recent incident happened in a calm area; I mean, there were no extremists there. There is no truth about any preoccupation with political security at the expense of criminal security, and the proof is that they mounted raids on these villages and rounded up men suspected in thefts and other crimes.

[Rizq] But the last raid in this village was in April 1994.

['Umar] It was calm there, but it was inflamed by the disappearance of this Sha'ban. Its calm will be restored as soon as order prevails, and our campaigns will continue.

[Rizq] Why were security forces so slow to move in and stop the killing?

['Umar] They moved immediately, but as the station officers moved in alone in the midst of the battle, it was difficult and even impossible because the positive aspects of a security action put the security of the mission over the mission itself. Reinforcements were needed before going in, and that was the time frame the criminals exploited.

[Rizq] But the violence had already begun Thursday night.

['Umar] That is not true. No one has informed me of that.

[Rizq] How could they inform you, when a senior watchman like Lamlum was involved?

['Umar] I issued my decision to suspend him from his job and take away his weapon. The senior watchman must be one of the townspeople; as to whether he was affiliated with this or that family, we are now looking into that.

[Rizq] Do you believe Egypt is still licensing weapons for whoever wants them?

['Umar] That has always been my view, and I will not change it. In the end, this incident was not so much a security threat as a settling of scores among criminals.

[Rizq] And confiscating the families' weapons?

['Umar] Only of those individuals involved.

[Rizq] How many soldiers intervened to halt the battle?

['Umar] There were 250 soldiers and 30 officers. About half that force has now withdrawn.

[Rizq] Has a curfew been imposed lest the battle resume?

['Umar] There is no need for a curfew, but there are strict security precautions. I would rule out any resumption of the battle, especially as most of the suspects are now in custody, and the rest are being treated in the hospital.

(Note: So far 63 suspects have been detained.)

[Rizq] So Bani-Mazar is now under control?

['Umar] Yes, and everyone knows it.

UN Secretary General Visits Alexandria, Cairo

Briefs Mubarak on Regional Issues

NC1207151095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in Alexandria today.

Arriving in Cairo this afternoon, Dr. Butrus-Ghali made a statement in which he said he submitted to President Mubarak a review of conditions in the Middle East, both with regard to developments in the Palestinian issue and the Gaza reconstruction drive.

He added that he and President Mubarak reviewed events in Libya and Iraq in light of the Security Council resolutions against them. Butrus-Ghali said the Security Council instructed him to follow up the implementation of these resolutions. He explained that he will establish contact with Libyan and Iraqi officials to implement the resolutions and settle the current disputes between the world community on one side and Iraq and Libya on the other.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali explained that he also briefed President Mubarak on developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and conditions in Rwanda and Burundi. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Uganda

NC1307080095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA) — UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali left Cairo for Uganda today, following a visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Musa on Egyptian-EU Partnership Agreement

NC1107165295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The higher ministerial committee for Egyptian-European partnership met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and discussed the broad outlines for cooperation between Egypt and the European Union [EU] countries. This was in preparation for the signing of the partnership agreement between Egypt and EU. The objective of the agreement is to bolster economic, technical, trade, scientific, and technological cooperation.

This was stated by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after the committee meeting. He added that Egypt attributes great importance to cooperation with the EU in all fields. He said that the world is currently moving toward economic blocs and Egypt is eager to make use of the progress of the EU countries, particularly in the scientific and technological fields. The foreign minister added it was decided to form an executive committee consisting of experts from various ministries, who are to take on the task of preparing the working papers on cooperation with the EU in various fields, which will then be presented to the higher committee at its meeting in August.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that the results of the negotiations in Brussels between Egypt and the EU will be presented to the executive committee before presenting them to the higher committee for Egyptian-EU partnership.

Delegation Leaves for Brussels Talks With EU

NC0907121495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt's delegation, led by Ambassador Sa'd al-Fararji, assistant foreign minister, left Cairo for Brussels today to attend the third session of the Egyptian-European negotiations, due to open tomorrow.

Ambassador al-Fararji said the talks aim to lay down bases for a draft partnership agreement between Egypt and the EU in the transitional stage preceding the establishment of a free trade zone between the two sides.

He added that the agreement covers political, economic, and social cooperation.

Musa Leaves for OSCE Meetings in Vienna

NC1207063295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0540 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning for Vienna on a three-day visit to Austria. During the visit, he will attend the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] troika's meetings and the meetings of the foreign ministers of Mediterranean and North African countries.

On the sidelines of the meetings, Musa will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss developments in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1107062195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0550 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'agov Tzur and his delegation arrived in Cairo early today on a two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and land reclamation.

A round of talks between the Egyptian and Israeli agriculture ministers is scheduled to begin later today. The two sides will discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture, land reclamation, and the improvement of seed.

Minister Winds Up Talks, Departs

NC1307063795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'agov Tzur and the accompanying delegation left Cairo for Israel this evening at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Israeli minister held talks with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, dealing with the means to promote the cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture.

The Israeli minister was accompanied by Israeli ambassador in Cairo David Sultan during the departure.

Minister Cited on Currency, Inflation, Exports

NC0907122495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, has reiterated that there is no dispute between Egypt and the IMF.

He denied any intention to devalue the Egyptian pound, saying that reports about pressure by the IMF to devalue the pound are totally untrue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In statements to journalists after inaugurating the first session of the "Summer and Sea" exhibition today, Minister Mahmud said the rate of foreign currency flow into Egypt is good and that the Central bank's reserve has exceeded $18 billion. He affirmed that the Egyptian economy is able to repay the debts as scheduled and that there is no difficulty in the repayment.

He said inflation has dropped to 8-9 percent which confirms the Egyptian economy's ability to proceed with the economic reform program. He added that this program meets Egypt's demands and takes social circumstances into consideration.

He emphasized that boosting Egyptian exports to foreign markets is necessary to bolster the development process. He said Egypt is open to all markets and we spare no opportunity to bolster trade exchange with all countries, referring to the world economic changes and giant economic blocs.

He stressed the need to expedite the establishment of a common Arab market because the ratio of inter-Arab trade to the Arab countries' trade with the outside world is small and does not exceed eight percent. This does not meet our ambitions, he added.

He said trade exchange between Egypt and Saudi Arabia has increased by over 300-400 percent and he noted the importance of organizing specialized exhibitions, as they provide the opportunity to promote Egyptian products more widely. He added that there is enthusiasm for setting up such exhibitions and that there are plans to organize and promote specialized fairs in the provinces.

Sidqi: Increase in Wages To Cost 1 Billion Pounds

NC0507124295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stated today that President Husni Mubarak is extremely intent on improving the living conditions of the citizens, particularly low-income people. Dr. Sidqi stressed that there is absolutely no plan to increase the price of any commodity.

Dr. Sidqi noted that the periodic and supplementary salary increases that will be paid to civil servants and pensioners starting July will cost the Treasury one billion pounds. He added that the Government is in the process of conducting an overall review of all state laws to make them compatible with the economic and social progress as well as with world changes.

He pointed out that a committee chaired by the justice minister is working on this, with the assistance of a number of subcommittees. These committees are now reviewing draft laws for trade and standardized investment designed to serve the national economy before passing them on to the Cabinet.

Japan To Provide Grant for Food Production

NC1007161895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1302 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—An agreement between Egypt and Japan was signed today at the International Cooperation Ministry. Under the agreement, Japan will provide a grant of 600 million Japanese yen, the equivalent of $7 million. The grant will be used toward increasing Egyptian food production by implementing a project to boost wheat production north of Upper Egypt as part of Japan's 1995 aid program for Egypt. The program is expected to total $90 million. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Opens Cairo Television Festival

NC1107165995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This afternoon, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif inaugurated the Cairo Television Festival, which will last from 11 to 17 July. Forty-five production companies and 22 Arab countries are taking part in this fair.

In a speech during the opening session Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that Arab interaction with the international media is a field that opens the way before enriching Arab culture. There have been huge strides toward globality recently. [passage omitted]

The information minister announced that as of 6 October, private and public artistic productions will increase. Television broadcasting will reach 3,500 hours of transmissions on numerous channels, reaching the Arab world and some European countries.

The minister stressed the importance of Arab programs reaching the mind of the average Arab citizen to enrich him culturally and intellectually through television programs presented by Arab and Egyptian media. [passage omitted]

Egypt Grants Kenya $4.3 Million for Water Wells

NC1107150495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public work and water resources, has stated that Egypt will offer a grant of $4.3 million to Kenya. With the grant, Kenya will set up and dig 100 water wells in various parts of Kenya for drinking and agricultural purposes over an area of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

20,000 feddans. He said an Egyptian company will participate in this project. The project's implementation will take 18 months.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi added in a statement he made after signing the agreement that this grant falls within the framework of directives by President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government to bolster Egypt's relations with the Nile basin countries and provide the necessary Egyptian expertise to any Nile basin country that needs it.

The minister of public work pointed out that by the end of this year, implementation on the first of the technical projects will start. This project combats water weeds in Lake Victoria; they directly effect the development of the region.

The Kenyan ambassador in Cairo praised the Egyptian-Kenyan cooperation and noted that the cooperation includes developing water resources, training Kenyan cadres in Egyptian training centers, sending Egyptian delegations to solve some of the water problems that Kenya may be suffering from, and offering help in providing health services and establishing schools there

Libya

Palestinian Brigade 'Ready' To Leave Libya

LD1307110995 Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, July 13, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY — Soldiers and officers of the Palestinian Al Awda Brigade expressed their appreciation and pride for the stances of the leader of the revolution towards the causes of the dignified Arab nation and his continuous support for the liberation of Palestine and the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland.

They said in their cable: We are ready to leave Libyan land, the land of the revolution, revolutionaries, challenges and confrontation and return to the land of the holy home. We express our glorious compliments and pride and we pledge to you to continue our struggle till the liberation of the whole of Palestine from the sea to the river and the establishment of the state of Palestine and its capital Jerusalem.

Bulgarian-Libyan Joint Committee Holds 20th Session

LD1207203995 Tripoli JANA in English 1701 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary of the Union Federation and Professional Relationships Affairs in the General People's Congress, held a meeting in Surt yesterday with Doncho Konakchiev, the Bulgarian deputy prime minister and his accompanying delegation, which is taking part in the meetings of the 20th Session of the Bulgarian-Libyan Joint Committee.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture and they discussed the friendly relations between Libya and Bulgaria and bilateral cooperation between the General People's Congress Secretariat, the Bulgarian Parliament, and the Bulgarian Social Party.

The secretary of the Union Federation and Professional Relationships Affairs provided details about direct peoples' democracy, which is being implemented by the Libyan-Arab people in Libya.

On the other hand, Konakchiev asserted the depth of bilateral relations between the peoples of the two friendly countries and reiterated the solidarity of the Social Party in the Bulgarian Parliament with Libya in confronting the unjust measures imposed against it through the so-called Security Council.

Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Departs

LD1207235995 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation were signed 12 July. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture, and for the Bulgarian side by Doncho Konakchiev, the deputy prime minister, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party and minister of rural development and construction.

The minutes of the agreement comprised the bolstering of cooperation in economic, agricultural, and other spheres in order to achieve the joint benefit of the two friendly countries.

Doncho Konakchiev and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday afternoon after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which he headed his country's delegation at the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation, the proceedings of which ended yesterday in Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message

JN1207120995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 12 Jul (INA)—Libyan President [as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday received Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraqi minister of higher

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

education and scientific research and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy.

The president's envoy relayed a message from his excellency to Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message concerns developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council and the Special Commission in the light of the recent developments. The message also concerns cooperation between the two sisterly states.

The meeting was attended by Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq, secretary of the General People's Committee for education, youth, scientific research, and vocational training, and the Iraqi ambassador to Libya.

Morocco

French Official Arrives on Visit, Makes Statement

LD1207144895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Michel Barnier, French minister delegate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of European affairs, this morning arrived in Morocco. In a statement he made on arrival at Rabat-Sale airport, he affirmed that Moroccan-French relations had been and should be ideal. He added that he was entrusted with a very definite task.

[Barnier, in French fading into Arabic report] Mr. Barnier said that the visit came to prepare for the expected visit of the French president Jacques Chirac to Morocco next month at the invitation of His Royal Highness King Hassan II.

He added that he came to explore the opinions of the Moroccan officials at this important juncture, which characterized the current dialogue between Morocco and the EU in order to find solutions for the existing problems, especially the issue of fisheries and the preparations for the European-Mediterranean conference to be held in Barcelona in Spain. [passage omitted]

Talks With Ministers

LD1207223395 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, has received Mr. Michel Barnier, minister delegate at the French Foreign Ministry in charge of European Affairs. The meeting was attended by Mr. Taieb Fassi Fehri, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr. Henri de Coignac, French ambassador to Rabat. This was an opportunity to examine the two countries' relations, the preparations under way to pave the way for the forthcoming visit of French President Jacques Chirac to Morocco, and the Moroccan- European talks on marine fisheries.

Mr. Barnier left Morocco this afternoon at the end of his visit to the country which enabled him to hold talks with some ministers on a number of bilateral issues concerning finance, trade, industry, fisheries and agriculture.

The meetings between the minister delegate at the French foreign ministry in charge of European affairs and a number of Moroccan ministers were an opportunity to examine issues arising from Moroccan-French relations and from Moroccan-European relations, particularly those related to fisheries and the preparations for the European-Mediterranean in Barcelona as well as other topics of common interest. He also examined with them aspects of the recent positive development in Morocco's relations with France.

The meetings were attended by Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments; Hassan Abou Ayoub, minister of agriculture and agricultural investments; Mustapha Sahel, minister of marine fisheries and merchant marine; Driss Jattou, minister of trade, industry and handicrafts; and Taieb Fassi Fehri, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Before leaving Rabat-Sale airport, Mr. Michel Barnier made a statement in which he indicated that he had come to Morocco for talks with Moroccan officials on the prepartions under way for the forthcoming visit of French President Jacques Chirac to Morocco.

He also dwelt on his talks with members of the government and indicated that they mainly dealt with the two countries' relations and how to create a partnership between Morocco and the European Union [EU] as well as the French role in the current rounds of talks between Morocco and the EU on fishiries.

He expressed his hope that a solution will be found for the outstanding problems between Morocco and its European partners and that cooperation between EU and countries on the southern rim of the Meditterean will be promoted.

The French official was seen off by Mr. Taieb Fassi Fehri, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Parliament Delegation in Geneva for Talks on Fishing

LD1107142995 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul 11 (MAP) — A delegation of Moroccan members of parliament

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is visiting Strasbourg to discuss with peers of the European Union (EU) issues on fisheries, agriculture, trade exchanges and questions relative to the Moroccans living in Europe.

The delegation is headed by First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Abdelouahed Radi.

Radi told the press the visit is part of the regular consultations between Moroccan and EU mps and is meant to explain the position of Morocco on the fisheries and partnership accords between the two parties. He said such visits should be paid more often due to the importance of the relations between Morocco and the Union.

Filali Meets With OIC Delegation on Bosnia

LD1207152395 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 12 (MAP) Moroccan Premier and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali received Tuesday [11 July] a mission from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) that will visit London, Paris, Washington, Moscow and Beijing.

The move, meant to inform the UN Security Council permanent members on OIC position concerning the Bosnian problem, is part of the intiatives undertaken by Morocco in its capacity as acting chairman of the OIC concerning the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Filali spoke during the meeting of worsening of the situation in Bosnia, the serious concerns over the situation, particularly in the Islamic world. He underlined the OIC determination to contribute to finding a political solution to the conflict that will take into account the legitimate claims of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the military, diplomatic and polical level, Filali specified the frame of the move based on the declaration and the resolution, adopted by the 7th Islamic summit held in December 1994 in Casablanca under the chairmanship of King Hassan II, on the declaration of the OIC contact group held last May in Rabat and on the recent evolution of the situation in Bosnia.

The OIC delegation includes El Ghali Benhima, director general at the Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Department, Inamul Haq, ambassador of pakistan to turkey and Osman Motari, member of the OIC secretariat general.

Sudan

Iranian Military Presence Off Port Sudan Reported

NC1307075695 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Majdi Hilmi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have affirmed the presence of eight Iranian naval units, in addition to some minesweepers, off the coast of Port Sudan. The sources also noted the presence of 2,000 Iranian soldiers as well as a large number of Iranian armed forces commanders in the area of Haya near Port Sudan. These commanders drive cars bearing the logo "Arab Islamic Popular Congress."

The sources assert that Iranian-Sudanese military cooperation has been boosted in the past few days. Iran signed an agreement with Sudan early this year leasing the port of Port Sudan to the Iranian armed forces.

The Sudanese National Grouping has condemned the recent Iraqi statements extending support to President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime. A statement by the grouping describes the Iraqi statements as "clowning around," and notes that the Sudanese people have not forgotten the assistance the Iraqi regime has provided to the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime since day one. The assistance involves money, petroleum products, military and security experts, as well the "mustard gas" the regime has been using to kill the Sudanese.

The Sudanese opposition factions will hold a meeting today under the chairmanship of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Unionist Party, to discuss the implementation of the resolutions they adopted at their recent meeting in Asmara, including the overthrow of the regime.

'Senior Official' To Visit Hala'ib Region

AB1207172595 Paris AFP in English 1705 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 12 (AFP) — A senior Sudanese official will visit a disputed region on the border with Egypt on Thursday [13 July] after the local governor was barred from entering the area, Al-Rai Al-Akher newspaper reported.

The daily did not name the official who would travel to the Red Sea region of Hala'ib region, which is controlled by the Egyptian military but where Sudan has a token police presence.

But the Arabic daily Al-Hayat on Wednesday reported from Khartoum that President 'Umar al-Bashir would go

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to Hala'ib to attend a ceremony of the popular defence forces.

Egyptian authorities refused entry to Hala'ib to the Sudanese governor of the Red Sea province, Badawi Mohammad Idris, and the province's military commander, General Mohammad Abdallah Adam, Al- Rai Al-Akher said.

The two came to make preparations for the visit, the paper said, without specifying when the incident occurred.

Anwar Al-Hadi, political director at the foreign ministry, told the paper that Egyptian troops in Hala'ib had tightened a siege on Sudanese police units and nationals, "forcing them to move south."

Khartoum has accused Egyptian troops of cutting off water supplies to the Sudanese to force them to leave the territory.

Minister Says Egypt Entrenching Hala'ib

EA1207193395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has stressed that it is now clear that the main motive for the campaign of escalation being conducted by the president of the Egyptian regime, who accused Sudan of involvement in the attempt on his life, is to entrench Egypt's usurpation of the Hala'ib region. In a statement to SUNA, the minister said the Egyptian media had been whipping up hysteria and making accusations against Sudan ever since the attempt on Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. Accusations were then directed against fraternal Ethiopia and U.S. intelligence. Now, suddenly and intensively, the impetus is being directed into consolidating Hala'ib, which Mubarak's regime considers to be part of what it calls the nation's homeland. He said this clearly revealed that the campaign of accusations was nothing other than a smokescreen for entrenching the usurpation of Hala'ib.

Mr. Sabdarat added that the recent restrictions imposed by the Egyptian Government on Sudanese wishing to enter its territory was part of a plan to sever contacts between the two fraternal people.

The culture and information minister said he was amazed by what Egyptian officials had been saying about the number of Sudanese living in Egypt, referring specifically to the regime's information minister who estimated the number of Sudanese there at 3.5 million. His Excellency wondered if it was true that such a large number of Sudanese were living there. He wondered how the Egyptian regime would interpret the fact that demonstrations of support for it were so poorly attended by people described as Sudanese, who merely turned up by the handful and who were just individuals who have sold their consciences and the interests of their country. Mr. Sabdarat said the number of Sudanese in Egypt did not exceed 500,000. Most of them went there as tourists or stayed there temporarily, he said.

Foreign Minister To Brief Gulf Leaders on Egypt

EA1207201395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, has begun a tour of Gulf states which will take him to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and Bahrain, to whose leaders he will deliver letters from president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, on ways of promoting bilateral relations and on developments affecting the situation between Sudan and Egypt and Sudan's stance on the matter.

The foreign minister is scheduled to meet officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today.

Meanwhile, Sudan is also making diplomatic efforts to brief Arab states on the current situation between Sudan and Egypt and to explain Sudan's attitude toward the provocations of Mubarak's regime.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

GCC Head Interviewed on Regional Issues

LD1207155795 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 12, SPA — The projection of a common and unified posture vis-a-vis regional and international issues has made the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] a credible regional and international actor to be reckoned with, and a force of moderation and stability in a highly strategic region, according to GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi.

In an interview with the latest issue of 'Ahlan Fi Italia,' a magazine published by the Italian embassy in Saudi Arabia, Shaykh al-Qasimi said 'the main achievement of the council is that it sets in motion a durable process of regional integration among its six member states. This process has institutionalized, broadened and augmented relations in all spheres among the GCC states.

The conclusion of the unified economic agreement in 1981, which sets an ambitious plan for economic integration and aims at the establishment of a common market, is certainly a major achievement, he said.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Shaykh al-Qasimi said the central goal of the GCC was to achieve regional integration among its six member states in the political, security, economic and cultural spheres as well as fulfillment of the goals, objectives and the aspirations of their people.

'We consider the realization of the goals embodied in the unified economic agreement as incremental and indispensable steps toward the establishment of a common market in the foreseeable future. We have unwavering commitment to that goal,' he said.

Commenting on the GCC cooperation on the issue of defence and regional security, Shaykh al-Qasimi said 'the GCC has made considerable strides in the realm of defence and security cooperation.

Various committees and working groups have been set up to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the member states. Emphasis has been laid on bolstering the defence capabilities of GCC armed forces, upgrading the peninsula shield mobile force, developing an integrated defence force and conducting joint military exercises. The ultimate goal is, of course, the creation of a credible deterrent force and the forging of a viable regional security system to maintain peace and tranquility in the gulf region,' Shaykh al-Qasimi said.

Dealing with GCC's relationship with the European Union (EU), Shaykh al-Qasimi said 'we value very highly the GCC-EU relationship.

The EU is the second largest trading partner of the GCC. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the two sides and entered into effect since 1990. Under this agreement, a joint council which consists of foreign ministers of EU and the GCC countries meet annually to discuss political and economic matters of common interests besides reviewing and approving programmes of cooperation of the technical working groups formed under the umbrella of the cooperation agreement,' he said.

'Harmonization of the customs duties between the GCC member states is an objective laid down in the unified economic agreement. The GCC has taken some important steps to achieve this objective, and we are working very hard to reach a unified customs tariff hopefully in the near future. However, I don't think that this is a prerequisite to sign a free trade agreement with the EU, although it will facilitate the negotiations. A precedent in this regard is the EU (the EC then) free trade agreement with the EFTA countries although they didn't have a unified tariff.

In reply to a question the level of European investment in the GCC and vice-versa in the light of the third industrial conference to be held in Muscat in October, Shaykh al-Qasimi said 'we attach great importance to the forthcoming third industrial conference in Muscat which will include GCC businessmen and their counterparts from the EU.'

The conference will focus on promoting trade and investment, expanding investment opportunities, raising the level of industrial cooperation and transfer of technology.

We hope that the conference will give further impetus to trade relations, boost the investment opportunities, and intensify efforts of technology transfer and industrial cooperation between the two groups.

As far as the level of investment is concerned, the GCC direct investment in the EU exceeds that of EU investment in the GCC states. In fact, European investments in the GCC states are far below that of the American and Japanese. For example, we find less European joint-venture projects in the GCC states, an issue which adversely affects the issue of technology transfer that is highly needed in the GCC states as developing countries. We believe that the EU has to redress this issue,' he added.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Denies Maneuvers 'Extraordinary'

LD1307090795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 Jul — Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud in a statement to the newspaper AL-WATAN said that the Kuwaiti forces are not taking extraordinary or additional measures every year during the month of August or any time closer to it.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-WATAN, the minister said there is no relationship between the military exercises taking place with American forces and the approaching fifth anniversary of Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait which took place on 2 August 1990.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti maneuvers with friendly states have been proceeding in accordance with a timetable which will continue until 1996.

At present, joint exercises are taking place under the name of "Iris Gold" between Kuwaiti and American forces to test the combat readiness of the Kuwaiti soldier and raise his fighting ability. They will continue until 23 July.

Kuwait is linked by security agreements with the United States, Britain, France, and Russia.

Ministry Aide on Relations With Yemen

MM1007095595 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2-8 Jul 95 p 25

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Majid al-Shahin by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] What is Kuwait's position toward Yemen?

[Al-Shahin] We and the Yemenis are born of the same womb of this blessed peninsula. Our brothers in the North as well as in the South know what position they occupy in the hearts of Kuwaitis. For this reason, the feelings of bitterness we had toward them following the Iraqi invasion catastrophe are both legitimate and natural. This is because Kuwait had expected the people of Yemen to turn into swords of right against the wrong of the invasion. Now there is no room for sophistic justifications or suggestions that we forget the past and let God forgive what happened.

Such expressions might be useful in tackling differences within a family or a tribe. But international relations have other criteria and cannot, unfortunately, be governed by these expressions, which we have habitually used throughout our inherited cultures and which could be one of the causes of our calamity. Because we use a language and terms that do not go hand in hand with our developing conditions. We live in one age but we think in the manner of another age.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are there any new arrangements in the field of Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations?

[Al-Shahin] There is nothing new from Kuwait, because the Kuwaiti position was determined by heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah at the opening of the first legislative session of the National Assembly.

Perhaps the most important factor in the Kuwaiti position is the appeal to all those who went along with the Iraqi approach to condemn the use of invasion and occupation, as a serious and archaic method for dealings among states, be they Arab or otherwise. Another matter which the heir apparent has also defined in this context is a request to Iraq to implement all UN Security Council resolutions, starting with Resolution 660 and ending with Resolution 986. This framework is the starting point for the restoration of our relations with Yemen and for that matter with any other country.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does Kuwait have clear conditions?

[Al-Shahin] Kuwait never stipulates any conditions, because we are not in a position to dictate terms. We are the victims. We have clearly defined the positions that we expect others to take, and consequently these are positions and not conditions. However, it is natural for us to ask anyone who wants to stretch out his hand to us firstly to say openly that the invasion was unacceptable and should be condemned and, secondly, to ask Iraq to implement all the aforementioned resolutions and not to toy with words that have now been exposed.

As to Yemen precisely, the situation is naturally different. Yemen was a member of the UN Security Council at the time of the invasion and the positions taken by the Yemeni representative in the Council can rightly be assumed to be the confirmed, official Yemeni positions. Consequently, although we might be able to find some justifications for other countries, regrettably Yemen's position is recorded in the annals of the UN Security Council, and consequently our position becomes still more justifiable when we ask it openly to ask Iraq to implement the international resolutions. Once more we ask: What is Yemen's position toward these resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council?

[AL-MAJALLAH] Can you envisage any mechanism to which the Yemeni side could adhere for the restoration of relations with Kuwait?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-Shahin] We are not in a position to draw up frameworks and mechanisms. Let us leave matters to take their normal course according to their own circumstances. We and Yemen know each other and the Yemenis know, even better than we do what the object behind this rapprochement is. So there is no need for any meetings and the like. We deal with Yemen in a manner that preserves our diplomatic relations, and we have an embassy in Yemen. A short while ago we received one of our Yemeni brothers who had come to inspect the assets of their embassy and we accorded him every welcome. Hence the ball is precisely in their court, and they must decide what they would like to say in respect of the UN Security Council resolutions as well as in terms of denouncing aggression and the use of force as a means for resolving differences among the Arab countries, which are bound by a joint convention.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does Kuwait have no strategic interests in Yemen?

[Al-Shahin] I do not think that we have any strategic interests in Yemen or that Yemen has any strategic interests in our country. But we have an outlook that is more important than this materialistic outlook, namely that we should live, as I have already said, in peace, security and stability in this region.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is the reason for keeping the Kuwaiti embassy in Yemen? Can we describe it as "Mu'awiyah's hair?" [Umayyad Caliph said that, if relations between him and others dropped to just one hair, he would still do all he could to preserve it]

[Al-Shahin] Undoubtedly the presence of the Kuwaiti embassy there provides an indication that Kuwait does not wish to sever its diplomatic relations with Yemen.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the statements made by Yemeni statesmen? Do you believe that they could be of some use in the normalization of relations between the two countries?

[Al-Shahin] The statements are based on niceties, but relations are based on cultural and legal principles. We do not deal with matters on the basis of intentions and expressions that have been worn-out by time but on the basis of specific norms which we ask to be respected.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are you ready to welcome Yemeni delegations, should they express a wish to visit Kuwait?

[Al-Shahin] It is illogical for us to exchange delegations before relations take their natural course. Consequently we must be frank. The bitterness caused by the Yemeni attitude has affected Kuwaiti citizens. Without a clear position, people here cannot accept the restoration of the relations between the two countries.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some observers have suggested that Yemen could make an official apology for its stances. What do you say about such suggestions?

[Al-Shahin] Men or statesmen begin to make apologies only when they reach an advanced cultural standard and when they possess the courage to admit their mistakes. Unfortunately, in our world — and I do not say just in Yemen — we have not yet reached the cultural level that would enable a statesman to stand up, admit to being wrong, and subsequently adopt stands to redress that wrong.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Within the framework of the recent Saudi-Yemeni rapprochement, can you envisage Saudi mediation for the normalization of relations between you and Yemen?

[Al-Shahin] So far nothing has happened that could be called mediation. Our big sister, Saudi Arabia, which has great prestige in Kuwait,knows when to talk and when to act.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Observers try to differentiate between the official Yemeni position and the populist Yemeni position, so that if populist efforts were permitted to operate they could help to heal the wounds. What do you say to that?

[Al-Shahin] You cannot differentiate between the people and the government. These matters cannot be separated from each other because they involve relations, passports, visas, and aid. How could a self-respecting government accept seeing its people act in a manner different from its own. If such a thing did occur, then it would be a manifestation of government schizophrenia as well as of individual schizophrenia.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There are some people who believe that the normalization of relations will inevitably come within six months because of developments in the relations between the region's countries. Do you think so?

[Al-Shahin] As a statesman "who follows developments," I cannot fix any period of time for the restoration of relations. The time will come in one event only, namely when a program of action exists, and there is no such program yet.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There is a difference between the restoration of relations and the normalization of relations. What exactly do you mean?

[Al-Shahin] Diplomatic relations exist, and we have a charge d'affaires in Sanaa with a full embassy staff there. He carries out his duties of contacting the brothers in Yemen and providing us with first-hand information.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are any measures being drawn up for activating the Kuwaiti embassy there?

[Al-Shahin] The brothers are performing their duties in the best manner; they enjoy the confidence of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and carry out its instructions to the letter.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Will you oppose Yemen's affiliation to the [Gulf Cooperation] Council, should it express a wish to join in the future?

[Al-Shahin] Actually Kuwait does not take a unilateral stance and is in no position to do so. Besides, this question has not been raised at any previous summit. I do not believe that it will be raised at any Gulf summit in the foreseeable future.

Qatar

Statement Issued on Yemeni President's Visit

JN1207184995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1717 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Joint statement issued at the end of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit; place and date not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to a kind invitation from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, stemming from the firm and strong relations between the two countries, and in affirmation of the fraternal relations between them, His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the sisterly Yemeni Republic, paid an official visit to the State of Qatar from 13 to 14 Safar, 1416 of the hegira, 11-12 July 1995.

His excellency the president was accorded an official and fraternal welcome, truly expressing the firm and deep-rooted historical relations between the two sisterly countries. The Yemeni president extended his congratulations and those of the Yemeni Government and people to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on his assumption of power in the State of Qatar. The president wished his highness, his wise government, and the Qatari people immense progress and prosperity.

Within a framework of brotherhood and full understanding and eagerness to bolster the close cooperation between the two countries, the two Arab leaders held talks characterized by a spirit of complete and mutual trust. The talks, in which senior officials from both sides took part, were characterized by an identity of views on all topics discussed. The two sides reviewed the good bilateral relations in all fields and observed with extreme satisfaction the positive development of the growth of these relations in the various fields of cooperation. Various aspects of this cooperation were reviewed in the political, economic, investment, commercial, cultural, and other fields. It was agreed that a joint committee will be established under the two foreign ministers to support and expand the fields of this cooperation and to promote the two people's interests and joint aspirations.

The two sides exchanged views on the Arab conditions and highlighted the extreme importance of restoring Arab solidarity on realistic bases characterized by frankness and objectivity, activating joint Arab action, and supporting efforts by the Arab League in this regard. The two sides also stressed the need for entrenching principles based on mutual respect, the sovereignty of all states on their territories, and noninterference in internal affairs. The two sides renewed their satisfaction with the memorandum of understanding reached in Holy Mecca between the Yemeni Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressing their hope that this will contribute toward strengthening security and stability, and prosperity in the region.

The two sides reviewed the regional conditions in the Arabian Gulf region. They stressed the importance of strengthening security and stability in this region and avoiding anything that might threaten their security and stability.

The two sides discussed the situation in Iraq, stressing their great concern about Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They praised Iraq's positive step in recognizing the sovereignty, the territorial integrity, and the international borders of the State of Kuwait in accordance with Security Council Resolution 338, terming it an important and correct step toward implementing all the relevant Security Council resolutions in order to end the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and to restore security and stability in the region.

The two sides reviewed the peace process in the Middle East, as well as the progress made in bilateral and multilateral negotiations. They voiced their support for the peace process and their desire to see major progress on all tracks, particularly the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks. They also pledged to work to reach a lasting, just, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute based on the Madrid formula, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace in order to achieve a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights by establishing their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. They also voiced their objection to any attempt to change the city's current status, as well as the 1967 borders, or

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to make changes in its geographic and demographic characteristics during the transitional period that may affect the results of negotiations on it.

The two sides stressed that any solution based on foundations other than these cannot be considered a comprehensive and lasting solution and will not achieve security and stability in the Middle East. The two sides stressed that comprehensive peace should achieve equal and balanced security for all parties. This requires the establishment of a zone that is free from all the weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They urged Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to open its installations to international inspection.

The two sides then reviewed the situation in fraternal Somalia and urged the disputing parties to enter into a serious dialogue to solve their differences, achieve national reconciliation, and maintain the unity of the people and territory of fraternal Somalia.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the Serbs' continued brutal actions against civilians and their use of the UN soldiers as hostages and human shields in a flagrant challenge to the international community and an open violation of international laws. They voiced support for the Muslim Bosnian people in their ordeal, as well as their condemnation of the continued Serb aggression. They also appealed to the international community to face up to its responsibility to put an end to this aggression and implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy in a just manner. They also stressed the need to safeguard the independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, preserve its territorial integrity, and lift the arms embargo on it to enable it to defend its unity and sovereignty.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the fraternal Republic of Yemen, voiced his deep thanks to and appreciation for the Qatari amir, government, and people for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to his excellency and his delegation during the visit. His excellency invited his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, to visit the Republic of Yemen. His highness the amir accepted it, and the date will be set later.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR BULLETIN Discusses Legitimacy of Regime

MS0707132595 London CDLR Monitor in English 23 Jun 95

[Bulletin No. 53 of the the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 23 June — received via Internet 7 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part five — The Duties of Leaders In Islam....

This is the fifth part in the series discussing the legitimacy of the Saudi regime. In this part we will be discussing the role of the leader, and his duties with regard to serving the nation and securing the well-being of the people.

Before we explore the achievements of the regime with regard to serving the nation, we will discuss the legitimate foundations of such duties. It has been made evident by scholars, through the understanding of the legitimate texts, and the actions of the Prophet (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him] and the righteous Caliphs, that a leader has definite legitimate duties towards the nation. The most prominent of those duties are the establishment of justice, the honest and sensible management of the nation's finances, the appointment of trustworthy, knowledgeable people to positions that enable them to best serve the nation, and the implementation of policies to provide the nation with a satisfactory and comfortable way of life.

The above are compulsory, legitimate duties a leader must carry out, and these duties should not be considered by the leader to be duties he is bestowing upon the nation.

The role of leaders is based on the fact that the greater the responsibilities, then the greater is the weight upon the shoulders of the leader.

The Prophet (PBUH) said (Your are all leaders, and every leader is responsible for his sphere of influence). The Prophet (PBUH) also said that (any man, given the responsibility of leading Muslims, who then dies whilst deceiving them, then Allah will forbid heaven for him). On another occasion the Prophet (PBUH) said (Oh Allah! If anyone is given responsibility on my nation, and he has made it difficult for them, then make life difficult for him. And whoever made it easy for them, then make it easy for him).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The first duty is the establishment of justice. Allah said; [God commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin].

[God does command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due; and when you judge between man and man, that you judge with justice].

The Prophet (PBUH) said that (not one leader of a nation, be it little or large, who does not give justice to the nation, then Allah will put him in hell). With regard to condemning injustice Allah said, [And remember that Abraham was tried by his lord with certain commands which he fulfilled: He said: I will make you an Imam (leader) to the nations. He pleaded: and also Imams from my offspring! He answered: but my promise is not within the reach of oppressors].

In interpretation of the above Ayat, Ibn Abbas said that "there is no obligation to follow the oppressor in his injustice, and if any promise has been made with an oppressor, then it should be broken".

Al Jassas remarked, on explaining the Ayat that "it is not allowed for an unjust oppressor to become a prophet, nor a caliph, nor a judge, nor someone whose statement may influence people, such as a mufti or a witness". Al Jassas said that the above Ayat proves the loss of credibility of an oppressive leader, and that he should not be a leader or caliph etc. Also, whomever places himself in that position by force, for example, and who is also a sinner, then people are not obliged to follow him, nor obey him.

Al Qurtubi said that "an oppressor is not fit to be a caliph, nor a governor, nor a mufti, nor a witness". Allah said: [But verily the oppressors will have a grievous penalty]. In a Hadith condemning injustice, the Prophet (PBUH) said: (avoid injustice because injustice is darkness on the Day of Judgement). Ibn Taimiyyah remarked that ruling with justice is an absolute, compulsory duty at all times and places; on everyone and to everyone, and that ruling with Shari'ah is the most complete type of justice, and the best. Implementation of Shari'ah is compulsory on the Prophet (PBUH), and all who follow him. Anyone who does not comply with the rule of Allah (SWT) and his Prophet (PBUH), is not a Muslim. Ibn-Taymiyyah also stated that Allah made it compulsory on leaders to fulfil their responsibilities faithfully, and to lead with justice. These two points are the main aim of just politics.

Ibn al-Qayim stated that "Shari'ah is based on the rule of, and the benefits of, people in this life and the hereafter. It is all justice, mercy and wisdom.

Shari'ah is the justice of Allah, between his slaves and his mercy".

The absence of justice, and the spread of oppression, are not only an indication of the rulers violation of Shari'ah, but they lead to the destruction of the country and the anger of Allah. Allah said: [Such is the chastisement of your Lord when he chastises communities in the midst of their wrong: grievous, indeed, and severe is his chastisement].

Ibn-Taymiyyah explained, "it has been narrated that Allah gives victory to the just, fair, nations even if they are disbelievers; and he does not give victory to oppressive nations, even if they are believers". He also said: that "justice is the basis of all success, whether implemented by a believer or a disbeliever".

The second duty is the good management of public funds, their collection and distribution, in a legitimate manner. Shari'ah designated certain procedures that must not be overlooked in collecting public funds, and made it the duty of the leader to keep and protect such funds, and then to use them in a legitimate manner. Much evidence was narrated by the Prophet (PBUH) regarding the strong condemnation of those who misuse public funds.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: (that men who mismanage public funds without right, would be punished in hell on the Day of Judgement).

In the Hadith, a warning is given to leaders and responsible figures, that taking of public money without right, or preventing such money from being distributed to those deserving of it, would be punished. Abu-Ya'la stated, with regard to collecting money or charity that "the collecting of such money, according to the compulsory text of Shari'ah, is that it should be collected without abuse". With regard to the distribution of public funds, Abu Ya'la said "the proper estimation of entitlement from the treasury should proceed without squandering the money, or being miserly. The money should also be paid at the correct time".

It has been narrated that Omar (second Caliph) described the role of the leader, with regard to public money, as being compared to the role of the guardian of an orphan. During his reign, he said "I have placed myself, with regard to Allah's money (public funds), in the same way as the guardian of an orphan is placed. If I was rich, I would not touch the money, and if I became poor, I would only take enough to live on".

With regard to the abuse of a position for ones own benefit, the Ayat and the Hadith, are numerous in forbidding such action. One of the Hadiths that limits the degree of benefit, is what the Prophet (PBUH) said; (whomever is given a responsibility can take a wife, and if he does not have a servant he can take one, and if he

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

does not have a house, he can obtain one. If one takes more than that, then he is a thief).

The scholars have written in great detail about funds and public money. The third duty is the appointment of the right people to the right places. Allah said: [said one of the women: O my dear father! Engage him on wages: truly the best of men for you to employ is the man who is strong and trusty]. The conditions of strength and loyalty mean knowledge and experience of the job given, and the ability to carry out the job, with a fear of Allah (SWT) [Almighty] and not of people. The Prophet (PBUH) said (whomever is given a responsibility, and then he appoints someone to a position where he knows someone else would be better suited, then he has betrayed Allah and his Prophet).

The Hadiths are numerous to this effect. Ibn-Taymiyyah said "it is compulsory for a leader to appoint the best of the available manpower to deal with people's affairs, such as governors, judges etc. Each one of those should appoint the best of what is available etc... etc. A man should not be appointed simply because he requests a position, or pre-empts someone more suitable, or be appointed through friendship or kinship".

In addition to the above, Shari'ah made it compulsory on leaders to be accountable for their actions, which may lead to sacking or punishment if a crime is found to have been committed.

The fourth duty is the easing of life, and the well-being of the people, along with the provision of safety and security, and other public services. This will be discussed in future bulletins.

We will now explore the achievement of the Saudi regime, with regard to the compulsory duties mentioned earlier. With regard to the establishment of justice and fair-play, the Kingdom is practically one of the worst countries in the world regarding injustice, human rights abuses, racism, corruption etc., whether from the Government itself, or from individual, influential members of the Government. The last prospect one can imagine in the Kingdom, is for justice and equality to be implemented, as the system in place in the country is founded on the "superiority" of the thousands of members of the ruling family over the rest of the nation. The royal family enjoy all rights and privileges, are exempt from all duties, are immune to the jurisdiction of the judiciary, and are given a free hand to humiliate the public and to embezzle their money, property etc.

The value of the human being in the Kingdom decreases in relation to the distance between a person and the royal family. This value falls to the level of slavery, as in the situation of much of the ex-patriate labour and some of the Bedouins situated on the fringes of the country.

The injustice and abuse meted out by the Government itself is common practice. For example, freedom of speech is prohibited, as well as gathering and co-operation for charitable purposes. Humiliation, imprisonment, torture, spying, house assaults etc. are all common and systematic practices. The private individual has no right to privacy in his own home, on his telephone or even in his legitimate duties. In addition to the above, the total control of the judiciary is utilised to complete the circle of oppression, as the judiciary has been transformed into an oppressive institution to justify the crimes of the regime. In effect, the judiciary has been turned into a weapon to be used in the face of justice. For a clearer and more complete idea of the subject, refer to the report by the Liberty Organisation regarding human rights and the judiciary in the Kingdom.

With regard to the mismanagement of public funds, their collection and distribution, we believe that no one in history has made a bigger mess than that made by Fahd and his brothers. They have managed to thieve and waste the largest financial wealth in the nation's history. Their mismanagement includes the collection of money with no legitimate right by means of imposing illegitimate taxes and tariffs, by borrowing with interest whilst the country was one of the richest, by generously squandering money on themselves, relations, friends, enemies of the nation etc., all with no legitimate right to do so. This misuse of public funds has been to the extent that they have transformed the country from reserves of 150 billion dollars into debts and commitments to the tune of 150 billion dollars.

The properties of the royal family situated abroad are estimated to be worth around 500 billion dollars. Fahd alone owns property to the value of 41 billion dollars, Sultan 30 billions, Khalid Ibn- Sultan 25 billions etc.

The farcical aspect is that Fahd and his brothers believe that they have bestowed a huge favour on the Muslims by decorating the Sacred Mosque and for building the door of the Ka'bah in Mecca from pure gold. However, the scholars considered such misuse of public money to be a crime and actually forbade such displays. al-Shaukani considered the use of gold in the Ka'bah as being forbidden.

With regard to the appointment of knowledgeable, experienced, capable people, there is not one country in the world that has been transformed into a private enterprise company, owned by a family which has distributed position and wealth amongst its members, such as has happened in Saudi Arabia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Compare this with the severe warnings regarding the appointment of friends, relations etc., particularly when they are neither knowledgeable, experienced, capable or even remotely honest. On the contrary, the majority of those in influential positions are corrupt, disloyal, deceitful and faithless. The worst of them are actually placed in very sensitive positions financially, militarily, politically, economically etc. All of them are immune, from any type of accountability and enjoy absolute security regarding their positions, in that they cannot be touched. In fact, they even receive rewards for each crime they commit, as they are afforded more respect and support, and even promotion. The best example of this is perhaps seen in the case of the defence minister. His treason was exposed during the Gulf crisis with the actions of his "infallible" and extremely expensive armed forces. He was exposed during the Yemeni war, where he completely misjudged the whole situation and wasted billions of dollars. Yet he was given more responsibility and authority, and is now looking forward to being the next king! Thus, where is the accountability and punishment for all the influential figures who have misused their positions, and have abused their positions for the full benefit of themselves, their relatives, and cronies. Such legitimate duties are not only frozen, but have actually been reversed. Persons appointed to positions of influence are actually required to be corrupt and incapable. Officials and princes who misuse their influence are wrongly accredited with praise which encourages them to commit further crimes.

If we consider events rationally, what have our leaders presented to us for them to deserve legitimacy? They have failed to carry out the religious duties mentioned in the previous parts, nor have they implemented a sense of well-being, as mentioned briefly in this bulletin.

We do not understand how such a regime deserves to lead, when it has so obviously breached all the conditions and aims of a legitimate leadership, and has transformed the country into a privately owned estate, where they can do as they please, when they please and even legislate as they please.

An Important Announcement Ash-Shar'iyyah (The Legitimacy) Magazine.....

The first issue of the legitimacy magazine has been published and will be on the market in the next few days. The magazine can be obtained by the following means:-

(1) buying directly from Arabic newsagents in London, Europe and America.

(2) by subscription of 20 pounds in Britain and Europe; $50 America, and the rest of he world.

(3) by fax, where 300 pounds must be sent to the Committee's account for this to be possible.

(4) by electronic mail.

(5) by transfer directly to personal electronic mail addresses.

A Call

The Committee received communications from a number of Saudi students in Britain mentioning that a summer camp is being prepared in the honour of the ambassador. The students requested us to publicly call the rest of the students residing in the UK, not to participate in this camp, and to express their condemnation with regard to the detention and humiliation of the scholars and reformers, and the continued strangulation of freedom in the country in general.

NEWS...

The FINANCIAL TIMES Exposes Secrets...

The FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper yesterday published an article regarding the Boeing aeroplane deal, the declared value of which is 7.5 billion dollars. The newspaper confirmed that experts estimate the value of the planes to be six billion dollars only. This obviously means that a billion and a half dollars will go on commissions, bribes etc.

Last week, The FINANCIAL TIMES published an article mentioning that the American Import/Export Bank, which guaranteed the deal, is fearful of going ahead with its guarantee, after the clear indications of the economic decline. The Bank has put as a condition what is called a "blanket-cover." This type of insurance is only used with countries of doubtful economic strength.

The Government have not been able to secure such a request, 1.5 years after the signing of the deal. The American Bank resorted to acting as if the deal had not taken place. The newspaper mentioned in amazement that Saudi Arabia has turned to Islamic banks in order to secure the insurance requested by the American Bank.

The FINANCIAL TIMES also reported the strange contradiction in the Saudi policies, which absolutely forbid the establishment of Islamic banks in their own country, but nevertheless will resort to them for loans and borrowing.

New Strike....

A large number of Bengali labourers in the Al Hijaz company in Mecca have been on strike for several days in protest against wage cuts lasting over one year.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The labourers gathered in front of their consulate, appealing to their Government to intervene in order to restore their rights.

More Arrests....

Talal As-Sahib, a Spanish student in the Islamic University in Medina, was arrested last Sunday in the University halls of residence. Yesterday, Tariq Ali Al Ghadhiyyah was arrested in Buraydah.

Turki Bin Bandar Abuses Neighbours...

The Committee received a collective complaint from the residents of Al Salim Mosque area, north of Riyadh, expressing their deepest resentment to the damaging behaviour and influence as carried out by Turki Bin Bandar Al Sa'ud. In the complaint, the residents mentioned as to how the prince has transformed his palace in their area into a centre for debauchery and vice.

The neighbours have expressed their disgust and resentment to the Prince of Riyadh, and to other figures of authority, but the result was more challenges and stubbornness.

Turki Bin-Bandar is a captain in the traffic police and is very well known for using his position for his personal "preferences."

Security Decline...

Consecutive news reports have been issued regarding the decline in security, and the fast escalation in the crime rate, where some of the phenomena that were until recently considered impossible, have now become routine. People have become immune to the sound of bullets in certain areas of Riyadh, and it is no longer surprising to find one's car stolen. As an example of unusual incidents that have occurred, in the last week came the shooting of two security men at the hands of drug dealers, simply because the security men did not have permission to shoot. In the same week, a citizen was killed with a bullet to the head, whilst he was sat in a barbers shop having a haircut. The body remained in the shop until 1.30 PM, despite the police having being informed at 8.30 am.

Al Sa'ud's Bulldozers....

The farmers of Ar-Ramis area, between Dammam and Ras-Tannurah, were surprised by a number of bulldozers which were causing devastation at over 500 farms in the area.

The farmers in that area quickly gathered to protest against the action, and to attempt to stop the bulldozers. However, the authorities hurriedly called the anti-riot police and 50 of the farmers were arrested.

Muhammad Bin Fahd refused to accept any objections from the people of the area.

It is thought that the motive behind this operation is to distribute the land to a number of princes and influential figures, in order to establish private farms for them, as the area is rich in water and fertile land.

The Telephone Company...

A large number of citizens complained about the telephone bills, as they were much higher than expected. It was later found that the tariffs were more than those declared. The citizens found no explanation from the telephone company. On the other hand, the telephone company sold a huge number of faulty telephone cards, where an average 25 per cent of the value was utilised by the buyers. To whom do you complain!!

A Boycott...

The organisers of Dar Al Tauheed's ceremony in Tayeff were surprised by a wide boycott from the guests and the nominees. The ceremony was organised to honour the older graduates of the institution. The older graduates expressed their support to their fellow detained brothers by not answering the invitation. The only ones who took part were people such as Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Jubair, the Chairman of the Consultancy Council, and several official Shaykhs.

The Prisoners Conditions....

Information from prison confirms that all detainees are keeping their moral high, and that they are all, and in particular the scholars and preachers, steadfast and insistent on their stands.

They are all utilising this experience, and spend their time doing prayers, seeking knowledge etc. They would like to comfort those asking about them, and to say that they are in good health and spirit.

On the other hand, the Committee has not yet received any confirmations regarding more sentences passed on the detainees.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BABIL Assails U.S. Support for Turkish 'Invasion'

JN1207091395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0700 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL stressed that the employment of double standards in politics and positions is now a unique peculiarity of the Americans, and is as unique as their endeavor to impose their hegemony on the resources of peoples and nations. In an editorial today, the paper says: The U.S. Administration's record in the past five years is full of scores of flagrant examples of this double and twisted policy.

The paper refers to the statement by Nicholas Burns, the U.S. State Department's spokesman, who voiced the United States' support for the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory. The paper says: This support has clear objectives and goals, which are as ugly as its justifications.

The paper says: The U.S. State Department's spokesman has arrogantly and cheekily held Iraq responsible for what he calls PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] attacks against Turkey.

The paper adds: The spokesman knows very well that the United States has invaded northern Iraq and brought the so-called Hammer Force to Turkey to execute and support the aggression against Iraq. It was also the United States which imposed the no-fly zone under various names, such as the Provide Comfort forces and the establishment of the safe haven, or the terror zone, in which the Americans sanction the murder of the Iraqi Kurds and the plundering of their money and property.

The paper says the United States has provided all support to the gangs of the two agents, Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, who frequently fight cheap battles over the ill-gotten money at the expense of the Kurdish people. The paper explains that the conspiracies of the United States and Turkey aim at severing the northern part of Iraq and establishing and entrenching secession.

Concluding its article, BABIL stresses that rights must return to their rightful owners; that Iraq will remain united, proud, and invulnerable; and that the evil and those who champion it will be defeated.

Libyan Transport Ministry Delegation Arrives

JN0807200195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1840 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan, under secretary of the Libyan Transport Ministry, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. The delegation will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Transport and Communications to strengthen cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the fields of transport and communications.

Delegates Begin Cooperation Talks

JN0907124895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1054 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The technical committee to prepare for convening the joint Iraqi Libyan committee began at the Transport and Communications Ministry today. The Iraqi side was led by 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Makhzumi, deputy governor of the Central Bank, and the Libyan side by Muhammad 'Ali Bin-Zayyan, Transport Ministry under secretary.

The two sides stressed their eagerness to widen the scope of and promote cooperation in various domains between the two fraternal countries, realizing their joint interests.

The technical committee formed subcommittees for cooperation in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, education, health, transportation, and communications.

Trade Minister Meets Delegation

JN0907192295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1530 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today received Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan, Libyan Transport Ministry under secretary, and his delegation. They discussed various aspects of brotherly cooperation in the economic fields and the means to improve them.

The minister briefed the delegation on his ministry's efforts to provide food for citizens in accordance with the ration card and the projects that are being implemented under the unjust embargo.

Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan stressed that what was achieved by the Iraqis under the harsh conditions of the embargo is a shining point and a source of pride to the Arab nation to continue to stand fast in the face of the conspiracy and the embargo. He noted fraternal Libya's keenness to improve and activate cooperation to serve the objectives of the glorious Arab nation.

Ramadan Meets With Libyan Official

JN1107150095 Baghdad INA in English
1340 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 11, INA—Iraq's Vice-President, member of the Revolution Command Council, Taha Yasin Ramadan met here on Tuesday

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[11 July] with the general writer [as received] of the Transport and Communications Secretariat in Libya and the accompanying delegation.

Mr. Ramadan stressed the importance of having joint and detailed discussions to find new and wide aspects for enhancing relations between Iraq and Libya now and in the future. He referred to the big potentials of the two countries which could be invested in a way as would achieve joint interests for them and the Arab nation.

He said powers of the Arab nation are huge, and its enemies are trying to weaken such powers in order to control over it and plunder its wealth. Umm-al-ma'arik [Mother of Battles] battle which was fought by Iraq and Arab peoples has foiled the American-Zionist scheme which aimed to control over the fate of Arab nation and to achieve the Zionist and imperialistic aims, he added.

Mr. Ramadan said the adherence by Arab peoples to their issues and not giving them up is increasing day after day taking Iraq as a symbol of struggle and challenge against enemies.

The Libyan official paid tribute to the progress and reconstruction campaign by the Iraqis, who are challenging the unjust embargo imposed on them.

He stressed his country's insistence and seriousness about finding new and various ways which could boost relations with Iraq and in all aspects expressing confidence that victory would be for the Arab nation.

Health Minister Meets Libyan Official

JN1107160395 Baghdad INA in English
1350 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 11, INA—Minister of Health Dr. Umid Midhat Ibrahim met here on Tuesday [11 July] with the general writer of the Transport and Communications Secretariat in Libya, deputy chairman of the Iraq-Libya Joint Committee for Economic, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan.

The minister reviewed during the meeting the suffering of the people of Iraq due to the acute shortages of food and medicine because of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq for almost five years now.

The Libyan official renewed Libyan people's support for Iraq, stressing the need for lifting the anti-Iraq embargo as soon as possible and stopping the suffering of its children, women and the elderly. He also stressed the need for enhancing cooperation in various aspects.

Joint Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN1207104695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0930 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Meetings of the Iraqi-Libyan committee concluded here last night with the two sides signing a protocol for joint cooperation.

During the meetings, which were co-chaired by 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Makhzumi, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, and Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan, Libyan Transport Ministry under secretary, the sides emphasized the need to strengthen the scope of joint cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the two brotherly peoples and the Arab nation.

Draft agreements for cooperation in the commercial, economic, health, agricultural, financial, education, social, communications and transport fields were endorsed during the meetings.

The protocol signing ceremony was attended by Jamil Ibrahim 'Ali, undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Libyan Official Concludes Visit

JN1207114895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1020 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Zayyan, Libyan Transport Ministry undersecretary, left Baghdad today following a three-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister Meets With Sudanese Energy Minister

JN0707182995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1745 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Muhammad Karrar who is currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in the trade and economic fields, and means of promoting it in the service of the two fraternal peoples' interests.

Minutes of Oil Cooperation Signed

JN0707193695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1850 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Iraq and Sudan today signed minutes to follow up

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the implementation of the Iraqi-Sudanese agreement in the field of oil cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The minutes, signed for Iraq by Oil Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and for the Sudanese side by Energy and Mining Minister Staff Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Muhammad Karrar, included what has so far been implemented in the fields of oil exploration, the exchange of expertise, and the training of technical cadres in a way that contributes to developing oil industry in fraternal Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Minister Departs

JN0807111495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA) — A Sudanese delegation led by Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Muhammad Ahmad al- Karrar, minister of energy and mining, left Baghdad today following a visit to Iraq that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Says Husni Mubarak U.S. 'Hireling'

JN1307105195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described the Egyptian regime as a hireling one which devoted Egypt's material, political, and military weight in favor of the interests of the enemies of the Arab nation and against the aspirations of the Arab masses.

In an analysis published in its today's issue, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The U.S. Administration frankly announced through its embassy in Egypt the day before yesterday its pride in Husni Mubarak and blessed his partnership in serving its interests, particularly his active role against Iraq and his distinguished activity in the settlement process with the Zionist entity.

The paper adds: Although there is nothing new in the U.S. Administration's recognition of Husni's role to us or to the masses of Egypt and the Arab nation who are aware of the Egyptian regime's terrorism and subservience to Washington and Tel Aviv in violation of the Arab nation's interests and stands toward many fateful issues, the timing of this recognition has many dimensions.

The paper says that Washington will continue to sympathize with, protect, and take care of the Husni regime as long as he abides by the rules of the set plan and the objectives which have been prepared in accordance with the U.S. strategy.

The paper stresses that the Americans' recognition of Husni Mubarak's partnership in serving their objectives and schemes is something pleasant to him at this time in particular. However, certainly, this will not satisfy his ambition because he wishes to be called the United States' number one partner in the region, especially since all his regime's policies, efforts, and political actions have been and are still aimed at showing further loyalty to the U.S. Administration.

Concluding its analysis, the paper says: Congratulations to Washington on its hireling, and congratulations to Mubarak on his partnership to the United States.

Mubarak Urged To Stop Instigations Against Sudan

JN1007172995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Jul 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column signed by the paper's "Political Affairs" section: "An Opportune Moment To Return to Reason"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not know what interest is served by the Egyptian regime's insistence on being a tool and a godfather for the suspect attempts at aggression against the Arabs which are planned by the U.S. Administration and its intelligence organs, as in the case of encouraging, paving the way, and taking part in the 30-state aggression against Iraq. The outcome of that aggression was disappointment and failure, not only for the aggressors, but also for Mubarak himself who played the role of justifier of that sinful aggression!

This is the question which is being posed today amid the serious developments of the relations between Egypt and Sudan and in which the Egyptian president is playing the role of escalating the crisis and paving the way for aggression against Sudan following the Addis Ababa incident. This question will remain posed until the situation clears and the results of the investigation into that incident are known.

Political observers who have been following Mubarak's frequent statements these days must have noticed that they are full of prejudgments and instigations against Sudan and its people. He even spoke about the possibility of changing the regime in that fraternal country within 10 days despite his previous declaration that he will not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs. But it is a clear threat, indicating that it is a well-studied matter, although it came in the course of a denial. What is clear is that Mubarak has a plan in mind, as he said.

President Mubarak's escalation of the situation with Sudan does not serve Egypt's interest. It also harms Sudan

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and its people. Consequently, it will only serve the foreign conspiratorial plans which are being hatched for a long time to undermine Sudan's unity, Arabism, and stability. These plans have taken different forms and assumed different acts of aggression which advocated the separation of Sudan from its south and imposed an unjust blockade on that country. These acts cannot be accepted by the sense of patriotism and true neighborliness which are witnessed by the history of common pan-Arab destiny.

Such an escalation in which Mubarak has chosen to play the role of the spearhead will widen the gap between Egypt and Sudan and lead to more bloodshed and victims between the brothers in the two neighboring countries as has happened in the Sudanese region of Hala'ib recently, and is expected to happen again if instigations and threats of aggression, which the Sudanese reject, continue.

Stopping Cairo's involvement in the service of imperialist plans appears to be an urgent task which must be understood by the Egyptian regime and its president in order to keep Egypt away from policies which are hostile to the Arabs. Therefore, this is a step to return Cairo to its natural pan-Arab environment and desired role of patching up Arab differences and extending bridges of confidence and affection between the sons of Arabdom in all their countries, guaranteeing their security and stability, and strengthening economic development between their countries so that they become a factor of strength for all the Arabs, headed by the sons of dear Egypt who are heavily weighed by the cord which hitches them to the wheel of foreign economic subservience and soliciting U.S. aid.

Will the president of the Egyptian regime wake up and respond to his national and pan-Arab duty. Will he also find a way for reform, or remain captive, serving the plans of the enemies of Egypt and the Arab nation?!

It is an opportune moment to return to reason following the loss of conscience.

New Qatari Regime Viewed as Sign of Change

JN0907114495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jun p 3

["Free Opinion" column by Dr. 'Aziz 'Ali: "Our Joint Iraqi-Gulf House; a Gulf Chirac in the Qatari Elysee!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A fresh breeze is blowing across the Arabian Gulf territory from Qatar. The Gulf, which has been plagued with border disputes between its states, has welcomed Qatar's more independent policy within the joint Gulf house which is associated with the personality of Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, former crown prince and new amir; a man who is known to have felt most uncomfortable about the policy of paternal trusteeship in the Gulf. Qatar, which is more rich in natural gas than oil, has aspired for a long time to become the window of future Gulf security without any illusions or trusteeships.

Qatar has always been realistic and rational in its cautious dealing with those who think that building up military arsenals with billions of dollars is sufficient to guarantee Gulf security. Well, this security has not been achieved. And, when some Gulf states, which are known to Doha, barred the appointment of a Qatari figure as GCC secretary general, Qatar did not react with a propaganda campaign, but behaved wisely, since it knew the real secrets behind the opposition to the Qatari ambition. Nevertheless, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah has often said that a person can only move within his own environment. Acting on this rational policy, Qatar has always moved within its Arab and Gulf environment. These words were also heard from Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas about Omani policy, despite what is being said about this policy being somewhat different from the one followed by other Gulf states.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has been, and still is, most loyal to the idea of pan-Arabism in the Gulf. This is why the Qatari position on Iraq is based on Arab nationalism, which is embodied by this rising leader. The man believes that Baghdad has been, and still is, the strong Arab shield which will protect the Gulf against future challenges and dangers. Thus, he has personally sponsored a symposium of Arab nationalist figures in Doha to discuss issues of pan-Arab thought and action. The man was very natural as crown prince and defense minister. So, how about now that he has become the actual maestro of Qatari foreign and defense policies. Observers believe that the principles of independent Qatari policy will be further entrenched under the new regime, since this man has never been prompted by reactions in his Arab relations, especially with Iraq. A Gulf personality has whispered once by saying that Iraqi-Qatari relations are expected to be further strengthened and developed and that Doha will be the rallying point for those Arabian Gulf leaders who feel uncomfortable about the current state of no peace, no estrangement with Iraq.

It is generally believed that the Gulf people will find in the new youthful Qatari regime a source of encouragement for more effective initiatives. The discomfort will disappear, the silent will speak up, and the deluded will take stock of their position in light of the new developments in the Gulf which predict even more important changes in the joint Gulf house. This will not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

necessarily result in changes of faces, but rather in a reassessment of policies. The most likely possibility, in the opinion of a western diplomat in the Gulf, is that the changes will take place within the ruling families, being the political fulcrum in many Arabian Gulf states. This diplomat believes that a Gulf "perestroika" is looming on the horizon now that a new generation of shaykhs and amirs have a greater chance to assume authority and power, due to their great skill in forging new alliances with tribal chiefs, army officers, and men of religion, and the fact that they enjoy the support and special care of the older generation of Gulf shaykhs and amirs, who believe that if the situation continues as it is, disaster will be inevitable.

The Qatari precedent, as set by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, is the first courageous expression of the effervescence which is beneath the surface in the Arabian Gulf. The potential influence of youthful rule in the Gulf can be seen from the effective policy which this Qatari "Gaullist" is pursuing, especially toward Iraq. Many people in the Arabian Gulf alliance believe that the policy which is being pursued by this man is an early warning to remove the specter of the disaster which threatens their region. Despite reservations by some Kuwaiti officials and other Gulf circles, which are limited in number but influential enough to exercise pressure on Qatari openness toward Iraq, a new trend is developing into a front, which is more inclined toward stressing dialogue for the sake of preserving Iraq, rather than using the language of estrangement with Iraq and closer cooperation with the U.S. plan to destroy it. Indeed, the Qatari policy has been effective in pointing out the danger of keeping the illusion of the Kuwaiti nightmare alive and its effect on the people of the Arabian Gulf. Thus, according to a Gulf parliamentarian, many people in the Arabian Gulf who once believed the Kuwaiti-U.S. allegations about the Iraqi "enemy" now realize that measuring Gulf-Iraqi relations by the Kuwaiti-U.S. yardstick could be a very risky thing indeed. The chief editor of a Gulf paper has drawn our attention to the direct and indirect effect which the young amir's policy has had on a cross section of politicians and leaders of Gulf public opinion not only in the information, religious, and financial fields, but also among military men who occupy high posts in the UAE, Oman, and even within the Saudi family and Bahrain. He mentioned as examples UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Rashid Al Maktum, Omani Deputy Prime Minister for security and Defense Affairs Fahd Bin-Taymur, Omani Palace Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-'Ali, and Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan who, according to local Gulf circles, holds similar pan-Arab views which have not been made public.

These views are held by not only UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, but also by the most potential source of Gulf rationalism; namely, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, through his military responsibility as defense minister and crown prince, and subsequently as the highest political and military authority in Qatar. Therefore, it is only logical for the policy of this Gulf "Gaullist," with his unlimited faith in Qatar's independent role, to become more influential. To many people, this man's policy shows political maturity. For instance, he does not support someone in order to spite another. He is also against inter-Arab relations in general, and Gulf-Iraqi relations in particular, deteriorating to a level making them difficult to rectify, or to an unreasonable state which ignores the facts of history, geography, and religion. Under the new regime, Doha understand that it occupies a special place in the mind and conscience of the Gulf. It will certain capitalize on that by consolidating its position on the Arab and international levels and effectively playing the card of regional and Iraqi security so as to cope with all future possibilities and challenges.

This is a temptation which not many Arabian Gulf people can resist, especially under the present U.S. state of introversion following the Oklahoma incident, the emergence of a defenseless United States before internal dangers which threaten its national security, and the insistence of the republicans, through the hawks Dole and the president of the House of Representatives, on abandoning the policy of hiring U.S. forces and dispatching them to distant lands on missions which have nothing to do with U.S. national security. Everyone in the Gulf is aware of this state of affairs, even if some people ignore the meaning and significance of Clinton's words that what the United States fears is not a hostile missile, but a car bomb or a bundle of devastating human dynamite.

Therefore, the position taken by Qatar vis-a-vis the region and Iraq amid all these potential dangers and in face of the big unknown, has afforded Doha the opportunity to extend the bridges of rapprochement with all parties, especially since several big world powers are interested in an improvement in Iraqi-Gulf relations. This role will guarantee important political returns in the short and long term, consolidate the Arab "Gaullist" trend in the Qatari house, and confirm Shaykh Hamad's affiliation to the front of political independence. Not a single neutral political observer will then hesitate to say that the new regime in Qatar has indeed brought an Arab Chirac to the Qatari Elysee. Thus, Qatar's independent foreign policy would look truly "Gaullist" by advocating

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

dialogue, while other Gulf political leaders, who are militant in name only, are fighting their own interests and security and using up their own resources. In the opinion of neutral observers, even these leaders seem to feel shunted in an embarrassing corner by Shaykh Hamad's sensible and protective diplomatic move; a move which has eliminated the possibility of any miscalculated reaction to the peaceful change of a situation in which he was the real strong man of Qatar even while his father remained as ruler. This situation was understood by the people of the Gulf and members of the Qatari house, including the members of the ruling family, the ministers, members of the Consultative Council, military men, men of religion, and the general public. Thus, the new "Gaullist" had determined Gulf support in his favor right from the beginning despite his father's claim about the invalidity of his "Gaullist" move.

The Omanis have been real partners in the independent political line which has been adopted by the new Qatari amir. Sultan Qabus has reinforced his old partnership and colleagueship with Shaykh Hamad at the British Military College [Sandhurst] by pursuing a policy in favor of the new Qatari amir. Everyone knows that it was Shaykh Hamad who sought to resurrect the Joint Omani-Qatari Committee. He was also the one who paid several visits to Muscat and received Omani leaders in Qatar.

As for UAE support, which came just as fast and clear as Omani support, it seemed rather unusual. But, whoever has followed the strong relations between the new Qatari amir and the UAE leadership, rulers, and military men cannot but observe that the UAE has found fresh support for its Gulf and Arab policy. Both countries have something in common, not only regarding their declared or undeclared official policies, but also regarding the personality of the Qatari "Gaullist" and that of several key figures in the UAE house. This was obvious, among other activities, from the large number of government officials who attended the UAE president's meeting with the Qatari interior minister, who conveyed a message from the Qatari amir. A prominent Gulf figure described the new change as a fresh breeze blowing into the UAE house from Qatar. Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, and the UAE foreign minister were also present at that meeting, which showed their strong desire to have the chance to hear every detail from the Qatari minister.

As for Saudi concern, it was removed almost immediately when the new Qatari amir dispatched his interior and defense ministers in order to convey the full picture to Saudi Arabia, which described the change as a surprise in the 30 June 1995 [date as published] issue of AL-RIYAD. It was, indeed, a surprise for Saudi Arabia. No matter what has been and is being said, it seems that Riyadh feels that matters will not be as easy as they used to be under the old regime. The new man is very sensitive to absolute paternal control. He is a man of strong will and has his own views on all issues.

Bahrain, which carried out its own change after a long time, seemed to implement a "yes man" policy. Its "yes" became definite after Saudi Arabia declared its support for the new Qatari regime. However, in view of the equanimity of its strong de Gaulle, Doha knows that Manama concerns anyone who cares about pan-Arab and Gulf partnership despite all the differences. It seems that relations will become more objective and fraternal. Manama, which preceded Doha in carrying out its own change — although it was not as sharp and comprehensive as the Qatari change — is making preparations with Doha, especially since all indications in the Bahraini house point to the growing strength of an independent trend which agrees with its Qatari partners on several Gulf and Arab political constants despite all that is being said about the invisible control over Bahraini decisionmaking. Manama cannot ignore the real dangers threatening it and the ambitions forces which are using invisible bombs at home in order to intimidate political and social circles. As for the disputes between brothers, these cannot be considered bombs if everyone resorts to special and independent means of resolving them. Bahrain, which until recently was the "Las Vegas" of the Gulf, has become a hotbed of sanguinary disturbances.

As for the situation in the northern Gulf region, in Kuwait, we wonder: Will Kuwaiti displeasure with the new independent Qatari policy line toward Iraq be replaced by even greater displeasure, or will the Kuwaiti regime tackle the matter by maintaining shy silence and using other indirect Gulf means to put pressure on the "neo-Gaullists" in Doha who do not seem willing to sacrifice their new rationalism and political status on the Gulf and Arab spheres for the sake of the logic of anxiety, tension, and attrition. Still, this should not prevent us from pointing to what is going inside Kuwait; namely, the rise of a strong trend consisting of religious, social, and even political figures which identifies itself with the Qatari "Gaullist" line. Doha is aware that its views are close to those which are held by some important Kuwaiti circles.

If it is true that Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalif Al Thani was the hero who sent free sugar shipments to Iraq, it is also true to say that he will be the social and political honey and sugar which will remove the bitterness in some areas of Gulf-Iraqi relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Views Saddam's Reelection as Ba'th Leader

JN1207102495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0810 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, issued here today, said the convocation of the 11th congress of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has demonstrated the will to stand firm in the face of the savage U.S.-led onslaught against Iraq.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says the congress, held under the slogan "Congress of Crossing," truly represents the adherence to the independent liberation course, which Iraq pursues and which was one of the reasons why it has been ceaselessly a target of aggression and conspiracy since the 17-30 July Revolution in 1968 until now.

The paper adds: One of the most important results of that congress was the unanimous reelection of President Saddam Husayn as the secretary of Iraq Command. This reelection manifested the congress' recognition of the leading and distinguished pioneering role he plays through his historic leadership of the party in an atmosphere that can only be described as very difficult.

The paper recalls the central report issued by the party's 9th regional congress which noted, at an early stage, the pioneering role of leader Saddam Husayn in formulating the Ba'th theory of action.

The paper says: Through persistent effort and the proper monitoring of the revolutionary process, the difficulties and complications it faces, and the new facts produced within it; through active contact with the party's militants and the masses of the people; and through a creative intellectual work and readiness to open dialogue and interact with the various opinions and realities, Saddam Husayn was able to crystallize the Ba'th theory of action.

The paper concludes by saying: Despite the fact that the only proceedings known thus far from the Congress of Crossing were those related to the election of leader Saddam Husayn as the Iraqi Command secretary and the election of the Command members, the local, Arab, and international reactions reflect the important position which Iraq and its leader occupies in the nation. These reactions indicate a wave of optimism and confidence that this congress came in the final stages of Iraq's legitimate and legal battle to end injustice, lift the embargo, and return, triumphantly, to play its customary role as a pillar of stability and peace, not only in the region, but also in the world.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabinovich on 'Uncertain Situation' in Syrian Talks

TA1307052295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross holds more talks today with the hope that he will be able to announce the resumption of Israeli-Syrian negotiations in Washington later this month. Returning to Israel late yesterday afternoon, Ross told Prime Minister Rabin the Syrians want certain demands met before they agree to continuing the talks in the American capital. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross was far less enthusiastic last night after his talks in Syria than he was when he started his mission Monday. After meeting Prime Minister Rabin upon his return to Israel yesterday Ross was asked whether he was still optimistic. [passage omitted]

Israeli negotiator, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, says the Americans are now seeing that their previously announced sequence of resuming the military and ambassadorial talks after this trip by Ross is easier said than done though he would not say the Americans jumped the gun in their enthusiasm.

[Rabinovich] There was a sequence that was announced after it had been agreed with us and with the Syrians. It was very carefully checked and nobody jumped guns, but in the implementation it turned out yesterday and today in the talks conducted in Damascus by the American peace teams that the Syrians do want very detailed agreement on a variety of details that is difficult to obtain and therefore nothing has been announced yet. We are now in an uncertain situation. I very much hope that tomorrow the situation will be clarified in a positive vein.

[Ze'ev] In other words, the Syrians want various details worked out before the senior military talks resume.

[Rabinovich] It would seem so.

[Ze'ev] One of the things you wanted to hear about, of course, was whether the Syrians were in fact agreeing to early warning stations on their territory. Do they agree to that?

[Rabinovich] No. By the way, this is not something that we demand. We do not demand that the Syrians agree ahead of time to anything. What we, of course, want is that this be included as an item for discussion. We believe that in order to have security we need to have early warning. In order to have effective early warning, a coverage from the air is not enough and ground stations are a very essential component.

[Ze'ev] But did that Radio Damascus report the other day turn out to reflect the official Syrian position?

[Rabinovich] Unfortunately, no. The Syrians, of course, do not deny that there was such a broadcast, but clearly they indicate now that it does not reflect official thinking.

[Ze'ev] Professor Rabinovich said last night he hoped Dennis Ross would still be able to announce today before he leaves the region that in fact the next negotiations between Israel and Syria will go ahead as planned. [end recording]

Syria Criticized on Warning Stations

TA1207130395 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dennis Ross, the chief U.S. representative in the Mid-East "peace" talks, is shuttling between Jerusalem and Damascus in an attempt to speed up the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Ross said that he believes a settlement can be reached before the end of 1995.

Israeli media reports a breakthrough in the talks with the Syrians new willingness to allow Israel to have early warning stations on the Golan as long as they are not manned by Jews and as long as Israel allows the Syrians to have similar stations in the Galilee. Judean Voice Commentary:

The truth is, Syria had agreed to that long ago. It was the Israelis that rejected the Syrian demand of symmetry in security precautions because of Syria's record of starting wars against Israel; also, because of the obvious topographical and strategic advantages which Syria would have over Israel after the proposed Golan withdrawal.

The Syrians never changed their intransigent position on any issue. In fact, the Syrians never aborted their state sponsorship of terror or their longing for the destruction of the Jewish state. The breakthrough is on the Israeli side. The Israelis are now willing to help the Syrians accomplish their satanic goals.

Uri Savir on Talks With Palestinians

JN1207153395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1125 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Daniella Karim Khalaf from the "Today's Events" feature; place and date not given

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

— Savir's answers in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khalaf] Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: You are most welcome to the first radio interview with an Israeli official by the Voice of Palestine.

[Savir] You are most welcome. I am pleased to be speaking on your radio.

[Khalaf] Do you believe that you are close to signing an agreement with the Palestinians? Will 25 July be a sacred deadline this time?

[Savir] I believe that we are now in the last stage of the negotiations. Since the signing of the Oslo accord, we have held lengthy negotiations. The importance of the topics under discussion lies in pushing the negotiations to a stage in which decisions can be made and eventually implemented. Without specific dates, the negotiations could drag on indefinitely. Hence, the deadlines force us to work harder and reach compromises between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. I believe that we will comply with the deadline sooner or later. What is more important is that we achieve a balanced agreement that is in line with the requirements of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides. This will be followed by the major task; namely, the implementation, which is more important than the agreements that could be reached. In parallel with the negotiations, we have actually instituted arrangements for implementation.

[Khalaf] Does this mean that you have begun the phase of drafting the agreement?

[Savir] Not only the phase of drafting. One of the lessons we have learned from the Gaza-Jericho accord is that the two sides were not actually ready for this massive change. Hence, we are currently working to transfer the Palestinian troops and police and promote cooperation in certain areas from the outset. The experiment of the interim period in the West Bank must be in the interest of the two sides. It must succeed from day one in order to thwart the schemes of many parties on both sides who wish to frustrate the peace process.

[Khalaf] Some people have said that the framework of understanding is an agreement that upholds the formula of exchanging territory for peace. How does Uri Savir view this framework?

[Savir] First, we must certainly complete the negotiations. I believe that Israel's basic interests nowadays with regard to the West Bank have to do with the security of Israel and the Israelis. Israel does not have a political interest in retaining the West Bank under its sovereignty. Hence, there was a historic decision made in Oslo. Consequently, our basic and sole interests lie in security, and these interests are to be achieved incrementally. The basic principle enshrined in the interim period agreement is the principle of increments or graduation. The entire Oslo process was based on incremental steps. This is because the conflict was intractable and complicated. I believe that we are fostering the Palestinian political interests, including taking charge of territory, which must be in parallel with the safeguarding of security. As a matter of fact, we are speaking of the security of both sides.

[Khalaf] But, what do the Israelis mean by the term "security" which they repeatedly talk about?

[Savir] I believe that security is an indivisible whole. Security problems surface only when there are people who seek to disturb the peace. I wholeheartedly sympathize with the Palestinians and Israelis who are opposed to the agreement. Nonetheless, those who are using violence must be curbed. I agree with you that Israeli security must produce security for the Palestinians; and vice versa. We would like to safeguard security for all. In the areas that will be handed over to the Palestinian Authority, the full responsibility for security will be in Palestinian hands. Security must curb those opposed to peace. There is no excuse for using violence.

[Khalaf] Can you predict the reaction of Israeli settlers when the interim period agreement is implemented? How can the Palestinians' security be guaranteed in the presence of armed settlers?

[Savir] As long as these people express their opposition through peaceful means, this falls within their rights. As for those who do not abide by the law and use violence, we will take firm measures against them. I believe that it is important for the Palestinian and Israeli sides to feel that the peace agreement has produced changes in their lives. This will be possible to achieve when both sides discover a common ground for cooperation in the wake of a long legacy of bitterness. However, it remains to be said that we still have to address the problem of mistrust and impatience. We must take into account the gradual improvement in the economic, security, and political state of affairs of the Palestinians. We have no choice but to explore each other as neighbors, and to translate the agreement, which only reflects the views of leaders, into a peace between the two peoples. The psychological barriers between the two sides must be broken. We have not thus far adequately persuaded our peoples to get involved in the process. There is a good relationship between the leaders and negotiators of both sides. We will pay dearly for the lack of dialogue through the news media if we fail to rectify it.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Khalaf] Let us return to the interim period. What are the basic bones of contention that still need to be resolved?

[Savir] Great progress was made in the negotiations because the negotiators did not speak to the news media. Both sides seem to agree on their inability to keep secrets out of public view. As regards the interim period agreement, there are still details that need to be worked out within the framework of the working committees, particularly with regard to the elections and the transfer of civilian powers. It is my belief that the leaders of both sides have the political will to resolve all issues. I do not like to elaborate on problems. Nonetheless, we must find a mechanism for implementation, coordination, and cooperation from the outset. Many people have spoken of separation. I do not believe in this. This is because we live together, and not only as neighbors. This is a fact of life. We will not succeed unless we manage to create coordination and cooperation formulas and mechanisms in all the areas covered by this sensitive agreement.

[Khalaf] In this agreement, which you have described as sensitive, there is a basic point related to Palestinian prisoners. What will happen to the Palestinian prisoners by 25 July?

[Savir] This issue is sensitive to both sides. Based on my talks with the Palestinian negotiators, I have found that it is extremely important to the Palestinian community. We are attempting to put an end to this conflict, and to release the prisoners. In the same vein, this issue is sensitive to the Israeli community, particularly with regard to those charged with murdering Israelis, at a time when murders have continued. I believe that the two communities have not thus far understood each other. The status of the Palestinians will experience a great improvement when the Palestinians take charge of their daily lives. A distinction must be made between violent and nonviolent opposition.

[Khalaf] With regard to the final agreement on the interim period, why has there been talk of moving the talks to Italy? Why are the talks shrouded in complete secrecy?

[Savir] The main obstacle standing in the way of fruitful and constructive talks is the failure to hold continuous negotiations. In the recent past, the positions voiced at the negotiating table were made public knowledge. Thus, it was impossible for the negotiators to do any bargaining. We are simply looking for a place where we can remain secluded for many long hours to complete the negotiations. If a new venue will allow for white smoke to billow at the end of the talks, why not opt for such a venue? We are still trying to decide where the talks will be held. Wherever we agree to hold the talks, we will make a marathon effort.

[Khalaf] The question is: When will the negotiations begin?

[Savir] Certainly before 25 July, because we would like to begin efforts to finalize the agreement by that date. We are not negotiating for our own sake. We are seeking a better future for our two peoples. The quicker we implement any agreement we might work out, the better the situation will be. Two years after the negotiations, we need a rest. Italy is one of the venues that could host the negotiations.

[Khalaf] What about the U.S. role in the ongoing regional developments?

[Savir] I believe that all parties would like to see the United States play a constructive role in the overall peace process. Likewise, I believe that Washington can help both sides sustain this process through political and economic support. This is because it is certainly a leading political power. It is Israel's ally. Now, we are pushing for a U.S. friendship with the Palestinians and Yasir 'Arafat, which was impossible in the past. I believe that the economic aspect is extremely important, because the people ultimately need freedom and prosperity. The Middle East has a window of opportunity in this regard. It is my hope that the interim period agreement will mark a turning point toward economic improvement and a Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian cooperation. I also hope that Egypt could be involved in such cooperation. The United States can play a constructive role in this.

[Khalaf] When and where will the agreement be signed?

[Savir] I hope that this will be done on 25 July. But if some little delay occurs, this will not be a catastrophe. Moreover, the issue should not be viewed in terms of deadlines and postponement. After 100 years of conflict, and 27 years since 1967, it would not be tragic if the signing were delayed one more week beyond the agreed target date. if I were the person deciding such matters, I would choose to sign an agreement by 25 July. As for the signing of the agreement, it must be in Washington, because the United States is a major player. Nonetheless, we must remember that the implementation will be in the West Bank.

[Khalaf] Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Thank you for this interview.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

IDF Concerned With Size of Palestinian Police

TA1007103895 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 10 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] HATZOFE has learned that plans for the defense of Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, much like the training exercises of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the Central Command, are based on the working assumption that the Palestinian Police in Judaea and Samaria is an enemy force and not a "friendly army."

Senior Central Command officers expressed concern over the fact that the size of the Palestinian Police is still not known for sure. The Palestinian Police force has just absorbed 12,000 additional policemen in Judaea and Samaria, as opposed to the figure of several hundred that was recently floated. These figures, which are still not certain, have the Central Command brass worried.

In internal IDF assessment papers, the Palestinian Police are considered an enemy force, together with the terrorists; the hostile Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; as well as the regular Arab armies.

HATZOFE notes that numerically speaking, the Palestinian Police are already larger than all the IDF infantry units. Security officials explained that when taking the IDF's overall power into account, then the Armored Corps and the Israel Air Force are irrevelant in the kind of fighting that could erupt with the Palestinian Police if the agreements collapse. According to these assessments, the Palestinian Police in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will number 25,000 men, far more then all of the IDF's regular infantry units.

Senior IDF officers are concerned that the IDF will not be permitted to engage in hot pursuit after terrorists inside the four towns that will be turned over to the PLO, which include towns very close to central Israel such as Qalqilyah, Janin, and Tulkarm. This is in contrast to the situation in the Gaza Strip, where the IDF had stopped engaging in hot pursuits inside Gaza Strip towns long before they were handed over to the PLO with the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli army constantly conducts hot pursuits after terrorsit squads in Judaea and Samaria towns, and is often successful in capturing terrorist squads. Senior Central Command officers said that a situation in which one or more terrorists infiltrate Kefar Saba, perpetrate an attack, and quickly disappear on the streets of Qalqilyah could become routine after Qalqilyah is handed over to the PLO. These officers doubt the readiness and capability of the Palestinian Police to apprehend these terrorists on behalf of Israel.

Northern Command Denies Levin's Lebanon Remarks

TA1207143395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi and Goga Kagan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sources in the Northern Command yesterday firmly denied that 'Amiram Levin, the commander of the Northern Command, said at a meeting with northern settlement leaders that the government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] decided not to hold back any longer in the face of Hizballah's katyusha attacks.

According to them, the commander said: "The present situation cannot last for too long."

Major General Levin promised the northern settlements' residents that the IDF will do everything it can to restore order.

A senior military element said: "We cannot turn the residents into hostages at the whims of the ayatollahs in Lebanon. The IDF has good military solutions for coping with Lebanese terror. Hizballah terrorists had better remember the results of Operation Accountability. It may be impossible to avoid a similar operation.

It is hoped in the IDF that Dennis Ross' shuttle trip will lead to tighter control over the terrorists who launch the katyushas. Therefore, the political echelon has given instructions to wait before launching a military reaction. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Rabin's Criticism of IDF Actions

TA1007105695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 95 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Blame the Policy, Not the Soldiers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is the third time that Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has accused the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] of indirect responsibility for the mishaps and military incidents involving Hizballah in south Lebanon. At yesterday's cabinet session, even before the volley of katyusha rockets struck the Galilee, Rabin said that IDF tank fire at al-Nabatiyah two nights ago, was superfluous.

On a previous occasion, also involving a clash with Hizballah, Rabin blamed the SLA by publicly questioning whether or not Hizballah had any cause to open fire. That was when, on 23 June, Hizballah lobbed katyusha rockets at the Western Galilee, killing a French citizen and wounding others. Several months earlier, while

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

traveling abroad, Rabin criticized statements made by Major General 'Amiram Levin, the commander of the Northern Command, who said that the IDF would take the initiative in the war against Hizballah. This series of accusations raises the question whether the soldiers, of whom many are killed in security zone battles, are to blame. Maybe the operational policy in this region is a failure? Operational policy is set by the General Staff; however, it must be endorsed by Prime Minister Rabin.

What is clear is that even if technical and operational glitches occur to a reasonable extent, it is not the soldiers' fault. The results of the tank fire at al-Nabatiyah were undoubtedly regrettable, but the soldiers' instructions were unequivocal and clear and they also had the right to open fire. There was a technical malfunction in the tank's turret but the troops were not acting in violation of orders. The soldiers are instructed to open fire at suspicious movements. The aim is not merely to protect themselves but primarily to strike at the terrorists before the latter can open fire, or attack an outpost, or plant an explosive charge. One should remember that three IDF soldiers were recently killed in the 'Ali al-Tahir area by an explosive charge planted by Hizballah. Last month five IDF soldiers were killed by explosive charges in the security zone and the SLA also lost men.

The IDF soldiers serving in these sectors operate under great tension. Many of their friends have died and the troops cannot be expected to behave in the field as if they were on the parade ground. The defense minister has the option of changing the IDF's rules of engagement, and actually the SLA's as well. In other words, he can instruct the soldiers to refrain from shooting in most instances and to shoot only if fired upon. In such a case, it would be better to order the IDF to pull out of the security zone as soon as possible. Rabin, however, is not interested in implementing such a pullout right now. On the other hand, he is holding the IDF and the SLA indirectly responsible for the firing of katyusha rockets at the Galilee.

NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion on Settlers

TA1207161095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] has presented a motion of no confidence in the government over what it terms the policy of evil, stupidity, lies, and mistrust demonstrated in its handling of the situation in Efrat. The motion will be debated next Monday [17 July].

Rabin Says Efrat Expansion Possible

TA1207160795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking with the heads of the Likud Knesset faction this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he is willing to accept construction on Hazayit Hill on the outskirts of Efrat. Rabin promised that, by tomorrow, he will make it clear to the Likud faction just how it can be done.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the conversation focused on the interim agreement with the PLO. Rabin stressed that water resources and means of their supply must remain under full Israeli control. That is why he will in no way agree to have several water carriers, saying the entire supply will be done through a single pipe that will be under Israeli control.

The prime minister further disclosed that, at this stage, no maps have been drawn to determine the borders of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. He expects to have clearly defined maps by the time the agreement is signed.

At the end of the meeting, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that he and his colleagues elaborated on the threat entailed in pulling the IDF out of West Bank city centers but, he said, it does not seem that the prime minister intends to change his mind.

Halakic Ruling Calls For Disobeying Evacuation Orders

TA1207140695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An halakic ruling issued a short time ago by the national Zionist rabbis, led by former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, states that there is a biblical ban on evacuate IDF [Israel Defense Forces] camps and hand them over to goyim. Consequently, they allow soldiers educated in hesder yeshivas [which combine Biblical studies with combat military service], to disobey orders to evacuate IDF bases in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that according to the ruling a permanent military camp is a Jewish settlement for all intents and purposes. Therefore, its uprooting and abandoning it to the hands of goyim would be tantamount to uprooting a settlement from Eretz Yisra'el, which is against biblical law. The rabbis contend that their halakic ruling applies to both soldiers and civilians who may take part in the execution of orders to evacuate bases in Judaea and Samaria.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Our correspondent points out that the decision was passed unanimously following several hours of deliberations attended by, among others, Rabbi Hayim Druckman and Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman. The ruling was endorsed by Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Neriya, head of the Bene 'Aqiva yeshivas. Some of the rabbis are scheduled to meet shortly with President 'Ezer Weizman in his Jerusalem residence.

The rabbis' halakic ruling has triggered sharp reactions. Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said that the ruling places these rabbis on the other side of the rule of law. Bar'am said this is not a rabbinical decision, but a call to carry out a criminal felony undermining all the foundations of a democratic state.

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said the decision is illegal and undermines the foundations of democracy. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that several ministers intend to raise the ruling in a meeting of the Labor ministers scheduled to be held later this evening.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 12 July adds that Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, head of the Alon Shvut hesder yeshiva and leader of the dovish religious movement Memad, said that "there is no halakic ruling requiring religious soldiers to disobey orders," and that "other hesder yeshiva heads support his opinion."]

Reaction to Halakic Ruling

TA1207160695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a move that has provoked strong reactions across the entire spectrum of public opinion, former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira today issued a religious ruling forbidding soldiers to take part in the evacuation of the West Bank. It states that no Jew must take part in any acts of assistance in the evacuation of a settlement, camp, or facility. The ruling was approved by 15 rabbis from the religious Zionist movement at a meeting in Rabbi Shapira's home in Jerusalem.

In reaction, President 'Ezer Weizman canceled a meeting scheduled immediately afterwards with the rabbis. The president said that the rabbis' decision was extremely grave; it undermined the principles on which the army was based and could shake the democratic foundations of the state.

Members of the government and opposition have strongly condemned the ruling. Police Minister Moshe Shahal called it illegal and has asked the attorney general to examine its legality.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan, the former chief of staff, sharply criticized the rabbis, saying that decisions like these could finish off the army. Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi also condemned the move.

But first we go to the Knesset, where Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave David Ze'ev his reaction a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] It's unbelievable that in Israel as a democracy some small number, very small number, of rabbis will take upon themselves the right to act against the law. To call for a soldier to refuse fulfilling legitimate orders, the meaning is anarchy. We will not accept it, we'll cope with it, we will not allow it.

[Ze'ev] What will you do legally against the rabbis?

[Rabin] The attorney general will check, I hope, what they decided about. Allow me to remind you that there were about three [as heard] rabbis that were for it, one was opposed. I'm sure that as a state, as a democracy, we have to follow the laws. The attorney general will decide what will be the meaning of what they decided about.

[Ze'ev] What do you say to the outside world, the world leaders, who see what's happening here and worry perhaps about the government being able to carry out its decisions?

[Rabin] The government will carry out whatever the government will decide, as long as we have got a majority to carry it out. We are a democracy and, therefore, whatever we are doing is in accordance of approval by the legislative body. Whatever we will do it will be needed to be approved, as it is to be done in a democracy. [end recording]

As it turned out, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's previously scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Rabin in the Knesset took place just a couple of hours after the rabbinical ruling that we've been talking about was announced. Leaving the meeting Netanyahu said orders must be obeyed, but he refrained from condemning the ruling outright.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] Well, I think it's not applicable to us as public figures. We're political people, we don't deal with halakah. What should guide us is the law of the land, not the law of the halakah.

[Ze'ev] You're telling soldiers not to adhere to this rabbinical ruling?

[Netanyahu] I'm saying definitely that orders should be kept, orders should be followed. This is the gist of the army. We are not rabbis, I'm not a rabbi, and I am not engaged in halakic considerations. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Meretz Cabinet Ministers Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni called for disbanding the hesder yeshivas, which combine religious studies with army service. Cabinet Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that as an army veteran of over 28 years — about six of those years in the territories — he felt the rabbinical ruling was the worst thing possible, in his words.

Peres, Ukraine Official Disagree on Joining NPT

LD1207141095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 12 Jul 95

[By Anatoliy Krezhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEL AVIV, July 12 (Itar-Tass) — Visiting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko called for forming a triple alliance between Ukraine, the United States and Israel.

The immigration of more than 300,000 Jews from Ukraine to Israel has formed the basis of a special relationship between the two countries, Udovenko said after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Ukraine is also striving to secure "special strategic relations" with the U.S., Udovenko pointed out. He said in this connection that the triple alliance he had proposed was not to take shape of a military or economic union against third countries.

The Ukrainian minister expressed understanding of Israel's refusal to join the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT]. "Ukraine and Israel find themselves in the same situation," he said.

However Peres did not agree with that assessment saying the two countries were in different situations where the nuclear threat was concerned.

Ukraine Official Ends Visit

LD1207205895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko has ended his official visit to Israel. On the last day of its stay, Hennadiy Udovenko and his government delegation toured Kibbutz (?Zora) and was then taken to the Aerospace Research Board and the aviation concern (?Taas) [name indistinct], a Ukrainian-Israeli cooperation partner.

At a meeting with Israelis of Ukrainian descent in the town of Netanya, Hennadiy Udovenko talked about the situation in Ukraine and the processes under way in our state's political, economic, and social life. He answered questions from those present.

On his arrival in Tel Aviv, there was a meeting with leading Israeli businessmen. Hennadiy Udovenko told the meeting about the potential of Ukrainian legislation and recalled that Ukraine and Israel signed an intergovernmental accord on trade and economic cooperation and joint activity in tourism on 11 July.

Hennadiy Udovenko also met the staff of our embassy in Israel.

Plan To Kidnap Israeli Tourists by Kashmiris Reported

TA1207074095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim underground in Kashmir, India, is planning to kidnap Israeli tourists. This is the assessment of Israeli sources based on information that has reached Israel. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the information was obtained during the questioning of an American tourist who managed to escape early this week from his Kashmir separatist kidnappers. Three other hostages, American and British tourists who were kidnapped with him approximately one week ago, are still being held by the Kashmir underground.

Muslim Scholar: Islamic Movement Losing Strength

TA0707101495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 95 pp 20

[Report by Haim Shapiro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite reports to the contrary, the Islamic Movement in Israel is actually losing strength, according to a local Moslem scholar.

Dr. Mas'ud Aghbariyah, of the Giv'at Haviva Center for Arab Studies, yesterday cited comparative surveys which showed that Moslems in Israel were less extreme in their religious self-identification. He was speaking at a conference at the Giv'at Haviva study center sponsored by the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

He noted that in February the prestigious British journal, Foreign Affairs, published a study, which Aghbariyah described as based on a General Security Service evaluation, which said it was only a matter of time before Israeli Moslems became hostile to the state, and that the Islamic Movement would soon be represented in the Knesset, where it would garner five to six seats.

However, he said, comparative surveys in which he took part showed that the Islamic Movement reached its peak three or four years ago and that fewer Israeli Moslems view themselves as very religious than in the past.

According to the first study undertaken in 1988 under the auspices of the University of Maryland, 28 percent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of a random sample described themselves as very religious, 43 percent identified themselves as traditional, and 24 percent defined themselves as not religious. In comparison, in a survey undertaken this year by Tel Aviv University, only 22 percent saw themselves as very religious and 27 percent as traditional, while 52 percent judged temselves as not religious.

He said that other studies, which asked Israeli Moslem respondents about their degree of religious observance showed similar results.

Aghbariyah added that these studies were consistent with the theory that as economic conditions improve, there is less of a tendency towards religious extremism. In fact, he said, in Tel Aviv University surveys in 1990 and 1995, 31.4 percent of those in the earlier survey described their economic situation as bad, compared with 12.7 percent in the later study [sentence as published].

Those questioned this year were also asked to predict their situation in the year 2000. Only 8.5 percent imagined that they would be bad-off while 61.6 percent felt that they would be well-off, he said.

Aghbariyah said leaders of the Islamic Movement were well aware of the drop in religious fervor and this was a major reason behind the decision of the movement not to participate in the coming Knesset elections.

He predicted that in the future the Islamic Movement would concentrate its activities on gaining control of the property of the Waqf, the Islamic charitable trust, in Israel, over which the government assumed control in 1950.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

King Returns, Makes Statement on Europe Visit

JN1207210295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned with God's care to the homeland tonight at the end of a working visit to the United Kingdom and France that lasted for several days. [passage omitted]

On arrival, His Majesty King Husayn answered questions put by our correspondent Kassab Samawi:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Your Majesty, you are returning to the homeland at the conclusion of the municipal elections yesterday and today amid the democratic atmosphere our country is experiencing. What do you think is the role of the councils at this stage and in the coming stages? What are your instructions in this regard?

[Husayn] The councils have a great role in the process of construction, and the progress of the homeland to the standard to which we aspire, God willing. The councils will receive every support from us in their efforts: from the government, and from me personally. God willing our cities and villages will prosper, and Jordan will prosper and reach the level we aspire to. We wish the same thing for our one big Jordanian family.

[Samawi] Regarding your visit to Paris and the summit meeting with Chirac, your majesty and the French president have very good ties and you are old friends. How did you find the policy of the new French president and his interest in our issues in the region, especially the peace process and the French support and the European contribution to Jordan and the region?

[Husayn] I made a point of visiting France and meeting with President Chirac who is an old friend and a prominent world statesman whom I hold in high esteem. It was a cordial meeting and we are friends, as I have said. Concerning bilateral relations, they are at their highest level of warmth. There is a desire by all that these relations remain ideal in the full sense of the word. This also applied to Europe in general, especially concerning peace and efforts to realize it in this region. Everyone feels that we are neighbors, that stability and man's progress is required everywhere. We share all the slogans such as democracy, respect for human rights, political pluralism. This does not make us strangers from others in this world.

There is a great interest in the economic summit conference to be held in Jordan after a short period of time, the participation in this summit and in the peace process, and support for this process with all resources. In fact, the results were all positive and I am very satisfied with them. [end recording]

Voting Process for Municipal Elections Ends

JN1207181695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At five o'clock this afternoon, the voting process for municipal elections has ended in certain ballot centers in which elections were extended yesterday.

The centers were 13 booths in the capital province as well as al-Rusayfah in al-Zarqa' province.

Under the election law, no further extension is allowed whatever the election quota was and even if the minimum percentage of voters is secured or not.

Minister of Municipal, Rural, and Environmental Affairs Nadir al-Zuhayrat in a press conference will announce tomorrow [13 July] the final official results of the municipal elections that began yesterday throughout the kingdom. The minister is expected to talk about municipal election process which was conducted in an atmosphere of democracy and freedom.

U.S. Envoy Remarks on Debt Relief Plan Cited

JN1307075895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 23

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] PETRA—The U.S. Ambassador in Amman, Mr. Wesley Egan, said that Jordan and the United States are about to sign an agreement to relieve Jordan of the rest of its debts to the United States.

In an economic symposium at the U.S. Embassy in Amman yesterday, Mr. Egan said that an agreement canceling the remaining $480 million of the $700 million that Jordan owed the United States will be signed with the Finance Minister Basil Jardanah within the next few weeks.

Mr. Egan pointed out that in a bid to promote economic development in Jordan, the U.S. Administration plans to cancel Jordan's debts to the United States as part of its efforts to relieve Jordan of its foreign debts . The United States, he added, would like to enhance bilateral trade relations through a better investment atmosphere in Jordan in order to attract foreign investment. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Officials Meet With Iraq's Husayn Kamil Hasan

JN1207162995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 12 Jul 95

[From the "Economic Bulletin" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade, met today with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi minister of industry and head of the [Military] Industrialization Organization. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-Samadi, secretary general of the Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields, Arab economic integration, and joint Arab industries and the need to activate them to serve the joint Arab interest.

Meanwhile, Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, met Husayn Kamil Hasan at his office today and discussed bilateral relations between the two sisterly states and ways of bolstering them in the fields of energy and electricity.

Hasan Comments on Relations

JN1207192795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade, met today with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi minister of industry and head of the [Military] Industrialization Organization. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-Samadi, secretary general of the Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields, Arab economic integration, and joint Arab industries and the need to activate them to serve the joint Arab interest.

Meanwhile, Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, met with the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals at his office today and discussed bilateral relations between the two sisterly states and ways of bolstering them in the fields of energy and electricity.

The meeting was attended by the acting secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

The Iraqi minister spoke to our correspondent Khulud al-Qur'an:

[Begin recording] [Hasan] The visit to Amman—Amman the capital of an Arab sisterly state with which we have continuous, old, and new relations, and with which we have strategic relations. [sentence as heard] During the visit, we will discuss with our brothers all issues that we believe may lead to positive results. We have strong relations in the industrial and energy fields, and we always discuss our relations in order to develop them in the service of our two countries.

[Al-Qur'an] What did you discuss with the minister of industry and trade a short while ago?

[Hasan] We discussed several ideas, and attempted to forge a link between the Iraqi and Jordanian industries. This link would be a strategic link, directly depending on the two countries — Iraq and Jordan. We also discussed the future prospects for marketing Jordanian industrial products in Iraq and marketing the Iraqi industrial products in Jordan, or even outside Jordan. It is normal for us to hold a dialogue and realize integration between the two countries in the production field.

[Al-Qur'an] Is there anything specific in the foreseeable future?

[Hasan] It is difficult now to say that there are any big projects under way, but we have projects in the energy field, and there is the pipeline which is currently under consideration between Iraq and Jordan, and this is important. This is in addition to several issues that are daily discussed and on which agreements are reached. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Hirawi Speech on 'Just,' 'Comprehensive Peace'

NC1207181495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the American University of Beirut graduation ceremony on 12 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Beloved ones, there can be no renaissance if it is not based on respect for the dignity of the citizen and the homeland. We stand for the just and comprehensive peace that restores to us our occupied territories in the south and western al-Biqa' [applause] and stops the aggression against our kin and the violation of our national sovereignty. This is why we have constantly announced that implementation of Resolution 425 is the way to achieve this. [applause]

But if the just and comprehensive peace is to survive it needs a development program that ensures [word indistinct] and stability. Peace does not mean turning the Arab-Israeli conflict into inter-Arab conflicts or into conflicts inside one country, as we are now witnessing in our Arab world.

We stand for a free peace, land, and justice. Lebanon will remain first in building democracy in the Middle East.

Sudanese Envoy Carries Message on Regional Issues

NC1207121695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hajj, personal envoy of Lieutenant General Hasan al-Bashir, arrived in Beirut today, carrying a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The Sudanese envoy said at the airport that the visit will help consolidate bilateral relations and enhance communication among Arab states in general. He hoped Lebanon would restore the lands that Israel is controlling.

Regarding the situation between Egypt and Sudan, the Sudanese envoy said his country is seeking a peaceful solution. He said past crises and the Gulf war proved that disputes cannot be resolved militarily. He noted that bilateral negotiations and Arab mediation are options, as is international arbitration if other options prove too difficult.

Labor Chief Comments on Trade Unions Strike

NC1207174795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The independent trade unions went on general strike today. Work stopped in various economic utilities and establishments, beginning with Beirut International Airport, the Beirut Port, the Water Authority, the social security centers, and Regie Tobacco. The ports of Tripoli, Sidon, and Tyre did not observe the strike.

Ilyas Abu-Rizq, the General Labor Federation chief, today visited the chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, and the Druze sect shaykh, Bahjat Ghayth. He urged them to try to get the government to repeal its decision imposing a new tax on gasoline prices.

After his visits, Abu-Rizq said that since these decisions were made without opposition, this was a prelude to more serious decisions, including standing and permanent taxes. He noted that the confrontation of these decisions must be comprehensive and involves the people. He declared that the warning strike on 19 July will be coupled with demonstrations that will be announced in time. He said that if the government fails to retreat under popular pressure, we will be forced to declare an open strike until things are put right. He said that before increasing fees and taxes, the government must control the markets, protect the consumers, and watch prices. He said the government must also enhance its real revenue and regain its stolen rights. If it regains the fuel sector it will ensure an annual surplus of approximately 400 billion Lebanese pounds.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ross, al-Shar' Meet; Damascus Talks 'Intensive'

JN1207122295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the U.S. side, led by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the negotiating delegation to the bilateral talks, and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador to the United States. On the U.S. side, the talks were attended by Mark Parris, the U.S. President's special assistant and director of the Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, and Aaron Miller, deputy coordinator to the Middle East peace process.

The two sides followed up what was presented yesterday regarding the ongoing talks and efforts, as well as the requirements for giving momentum to the peace process.

U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross described the talks he held in Damascus as intensive. In a statement to REUTER, Ross said that the talks he held with President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian officials were intensive and detailed and that they are continuous.

Ross Leaves Damascus

JN1207151495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, left Damascus at 1500 today following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ross was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim and the charge d'affairs of the American Embassy in Damascus.

Paper Views Ross' Tour Outcome

JN1207195495 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Majid Mu'awwad from the "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column: "Peace and the Required Seriousness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Israeli impediments have consistently obstructed the peace process launched in Madrid. These impediments were felt during the Washington talks and the tours of the region by U.S. envoys. The first impediment concerns the fact that all rounds of peace talks and U.S. envoys' tours were preceded by either the construction of a new Israeli settlement or a military escalation in southern Lebanon. The second impediment is that all rounds of talks and tours of the region by U.S. envoys ran into obstructions created by Israel. These obstructions had to be overcome to advance the peace process. U.S. envoys have undoubtedly informed their superiors of the details of these obstructions.

It is clear to everybody that Israel is doing this to frustrate the missions of these envoys in order to thwart peace efforts. Given this Israeli course, the outcome of Ross' current tour will not be different from previous tours. The evidence is that this tour was preceded by the same old familiar Israeli practices that preceded previous tours. This requires the United States to take a more serious stand this time. It is required to bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it abandon this obstructionist course.

The success of Ross' mission is contingent upon the new elements he could be carrying with regard to the U.S. stand. It is also contingent upon the firm U.S. action the United States could take to make Israel comply with what has been agreed with regard to the security arrangements, and to make it walk the path of true peace on the basis of its basic pillars; namely, the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

Is Ross carrying with him what would render his tour a success, and different from previous tours?

Many people believe that the U.S. envoy's current tour is different from previous tours. They might be correct. This is because this is the first tour that comes on the heels of the Washington talks held between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff, which were the focus of attention and gave rise to a great deal of optimism. These talks sought to put into effect the security arrangements agreed with the Israelis under the auspices of the United States.

Based on the conflicting statements made by Israeli officials headed by Prime Minister Rabin on this issue, one can say that Israel has not complied with what has been agreed upon over the security understandings. In full keeping with their tradition of maneuvering and deception, the Israelis have raised basic issues which should not have been raised in the first place, such as which should come first, the security arrangements, or withdrawal. These questions are bewildering. For if Israel does not effect complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders first, as has been agreed, on what basis would the security arrangements be put in place in an equitable [mutakaf'i], balanced [mutawazin], and equal [mutasawi] manner on both sides of the borders? The withdrawal should come

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

first. As a matter of fact, Israel is well aware of this. But, it raises this issue as part of its maneuvers and to dilute and thwart the talks. Such practices indicate that Israel is still not ready for peace, and that it sticks to its old policy to their owners.

By contrast, the Syrian position announced from the outset has remained unchanged. This position is in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the U.S. initiative, which is grounded in the principle of exchanging territory for peace, and which aims to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of these resolutions.

Syria sticks to the basics of its peace stand, which constituted the terms of reference of the Madrid conference. Likewise, it adheres to the results of the three summits President al-Asad has held with U.S. Presidents Bush and Clinton in Geneva and Damascus. It only wants Washington to commit itself to what was agreed at these summits; namely, the achievement of just and comprehensive peace.

When Syria advocates a comprehensive solution, it seeks not to leave any aspect of the conflict unresolved, because peace is an indivisible whole which should not be undermined. If this indivisibility is undermined, there will be no peace. There is no room for compromises or half solutions over this important issue.

As Syria has announced from the outset, peace is an indivisible whole. It must be treated as such. Its peace stand was clear from the outset. It is seeking a peace that would respect Arab will, safeguard the nation's dignity, and consecrate Arab rights which it has undertaken to vindicate and uphold. It is seeking peace on the basis of international legitimacy. According to its peace perspective, all sides must obtain their rights and all manifestations of occupation, oppression, and injustice must be eliminated. Security in terms of arrangements, military balances, and otherwise must be made available to all sides. Such security must be equitable [mutakaf'i] and equal [mutasawi]. For as is clear to everybody, Syria cannot accept anything short of complete sovereignty over the whole of the Golan, nor can it accept any flawed security regime. The equation of peace must be uniform and apply to both sides uniformly and equally.

Given all this, the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, which includes most of the world's influential states, must honor its commitments and bring about the implementation of the relevant resolutions per the UN Charter, because the implementation of these resolutions is the guaranteed way to achieve just and comprehensive peace. As for the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, it must help the United Nations implement these resolutions. If this materializes, Ross' current tour will stand out from previous tours as different and make positive contributions toward the advancement of the peace process.

Salman on Possible Results

NC1207170395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sa'id] Dennis Ross' new tour of the region is designed to prepare for the talks between the Syrian and Israeli military teams in the middle of the month. I would like to ask you about the possible results of this tour.

[Salman] The ideas discussed in Washington need to be followed up among the parties concerned—Syria, Israel, and the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] Is the United States playing an effective role, in that if the talks stumble will it intervene?

[Salman] The United States is a partner and its responsibility is one of a partner in solving the Middle East problem. It is also a cosponsor of the talks and therefore it must play the role of a partner, not a spectator or a mailman. It must be an effective partner, and it always states this stance. When the talks began between the two chiefs of staff, the United States declared that it is neutral and does not side with one party against the other. The United States always expresses its views on every point. It is still optimistic about its ability to bridge the gaps between Syria and Israel. Of course Syria did not create these gaps, because all it wants is to return the Syrian and Lebanese territory to their owners in accordance with the UN resolutions passed after the 1967 and the 1973 wars; these resolutions stipulate withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel claims the pace of negotiations with Syria is slow and that Syria is responsible for this.

[Salman] Israel has expressed these views. We in Syria believe the peace process should not consist of riddles and should need no interpretation. There must be clear principles and practical measures to implement them when the Israeli side is convinced of the need to establish peace in the region with Syria and Lebanon. There are the UN resolutions and principles, which do not require explanation or interpretation. Agreement has been reached on the principles and understanding. When the committees of technical experts of the two army commands sought to implement these principles, Israel began to present new ideas. This issue must not be left to possibilities and interpretations. Either there are

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

clear points on which the two parties agree from the beginning, to cut short the time, or there can be no agreements that need interpretation, negotiations, and beating about the bush. We cannot repeat the Oslo mistake. We cannot have this bad, this futile, experience that Israel created with the Palestinians. This mistake is known to the Palestinians and every Arab citizen, including the Palestinian negotiators themselves. The Palestinian negotiators were the most stern critic of this agreement and of the methods followed to interpret it.

[Al-Sa'id] One of the points Israel presents in the security arrangements is reducing the Syrian forces deployed between the Golan and Damascus.

[Salman] This is such a basic point in Syria's sovereignty and a domestic affair that Syria will not discuss it.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Syria's stance on stationing Israeli early-warning stations on Mount Hermon?

[Salman] The installation of Israeli early-warning systems on Syrian territory would mean the territory not looking as if it is under Syrian sovereignty. In other words, the presence of early-warning stations on Syrian territory is considered to be an infringement of Syrian sovereignty over its territory. Syria cannot accept any infringement of its sovereignty. These stations are provocative and inciteful, rather than security concerns. But as long as there are guarantor countries, such as the cosponsor state of these talks and the UN resolutions, this will guarantee peace in the region more than the presence of these stations on Syrian territory, be they on plains, heights, or anywhere else. I would like to emphasize that these stations will be stations of provocation and incitement rather than security stations.

[Al-Sa'id] What about reports that Syria and Israel have agreed on adopting the principle of aerial observation instead of terrestrial stations?

[Salman] Israel used to follow these methods to claim that the Arabs were the cause of tension and wars in the region, and this was meant to cover up its expansionist practices. Syria has chosen peace as a strategic option and is working for it. Most countries — particularly the superpowers and the West, which have very close ties with Israel, some of them its allies — are convinced that Syria really wants to work for a comprehensive and just peace that will last. This can be achieved only through the return of the occupied Arab territories to their owners and Israel's withdrawal without restrictions that would make their return incomplete or infringe their sovereignty.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel has recently called, through one of its officials, on the West not to give Syria any economic aid until it concludes peace. It also called on them not to lift the arms embargo on Syria. What is your explanation for this?

[Salman] Israel regards itself as the guardian of the Europeans and their policy. But the Europeans themselves are the ones to decide. Israel is giving itself a larger role than it should.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel gives priority to what it wants. It is discussing opening borders and full normalization of relations, but without discussing the withdrawal, its depth, or the line of withdrawal. Rabin is talking about a partial withdrawal from the Golan for three years to test Syria's intentions. What is your comment?

[Salman] You cannot find a Syrian citizen who does not view the Israeli side with suspicion because of the accumulated and concrete Israeli practices we experience daily. The Israeli side must show its good intentions, real desire, and own belief in the need to withdraw so as to strengthen confidence in it or create a change in Arab and Syrian public opinion. As a state, Israel is required to reassess its policy, reverse its hostile policy, and consequently leave these territories it has occupied by force. The Syrian and Lebanese peoples are daily witnessing these Israeli practices in south Lebanon, from the bombardment of villages to the displacement of the population and the killing of citizens. This cannot boost the Arab citizen's confidence in Israel or close the existing psychological gap between him and Israel. Therefore Israel must take measures that confirm its good intentions and prove its desire to live in the region in safety and peace. This can come only from full withdrawal and the establishment of lasting peace. This requires implementation on the ground.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is giving the impression that it is using the Syrian card to serve electoral purposes so that when Syria gets tied to the settlement framework Israel can prevaricate and procrastinate in implementing any agreement, exactly as is happening with the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians, is that not so?

[Salman] Whether this agreement is concluded or not, it is known that modern technological systems encompass the world and can play this role—the role of observing and of monitoring. Thus they would be in safe hands that could identify the party violating agreements. There are also the UN forces on the ground and coordination between the UN forces and the aerial observation equipment that other parties possess.

[Al-Sa'id] Through following up developments, could you say a peace treaty might be concluded between you and Israel in the coming few months?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Salman] This depends on how responsive Israel is. Syria is not the obstacle. It can never believe that a peace that ensures one country's interests at the expense of another can be achieved. Peace must be balanced so that it can achieve the interests of the warring parties, otherwise it will be deficient and liable to collapse. We are in agreement with Egypt on this principle. Egypt is working to support this principle at every forum and President Mubarak always highlights it and supports Syria's position on retrieving all its territory.

Commentaries View Peace Talks, Israel's Stance

Papers Repeat Damascus' Position

JN1307082495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has thus far been trying to ignore peace facts and to look for gains, whether through continuing its occupation of part of the Golan, or through presenting issues which conflict with the principles of sovereignty and dignity. Syria refuses to allow this to be undermined under any circumstances.

AL-THAWRAH stresses: When Israel rejects the principle of full withdrawal for full peace, then it is the one which evades and obstructs peace and places unacceptable restrictions and conditions which necessarily conflict with the noble objectives of peace.

The paper calls on Israel to abide by the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principles of balance [tawazun], equality [tasawi], and equitability [takafu'] regarding the security arrangements, especially since it is the party which occupies the land, and therefore, it should withdraw from it so it will be possible to say that the road of peace has become passable.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria does not accept encroachment on its sovereignty. Nor does it compromise on its national and pan-Arab constants. Peace for Syria is a strategic option — peace which restores rights and territory in full.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on security arrangements. It says: These arrangements are important. However, they will not be an alternative to the requirements of peace without which peace cannot be established or be complete. At the top of these requirements, full and complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

The paper adds: No one doubts the importance of reaching an agreement on the security arrangements, especially since such an agreement would facilitate discussion on other topics listed on the agenda of talks on the Syrian track, and remove one of the obstacles on the road of this track. However, exaggerating the importance of security arrangements is wrong, just as it is also wrong to play down their importance. Security arrangements constitute one part of a host of parts which make up the peace process and which lead to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper expresses the belief that Syria has cooperated with the United States in intensifying discussion on the issue of security arrangements, something which proves Syria's seriousness about advancing the peace process, and its good intentions and sincere approach toward peace, taking into consideration that it is a Syrian strategy.

AL-BA'TH says: He who occupied the other side's land, continued his occupation, and tried to annex it arbitrarily and unfairly in violation of the international legitimacy, is called upon to provide signs of good intentions, show a desire for peace, and stop defiance of and indifference to the UN resolutions. The most important of these signs is to admit that the occupied land belongs to its owners, and to withdraw from it without any delay or procrastination, and without using the withdrawal issue to exercise blackmail on other issues.

The paper says: The Syrian viewpoint is clear; namely, that true and lasting peace is that which respects the peoples' rights, sovereignty, independence, and dignity.

Radio Views Israel's Duty

JN1207150595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: It is not enough for Israeli officials merely to make statements on withdrawal from the Golan if peace with Syria is to be achieved. It is also insufficient for them to deny that there is a relationship between the Golan and the Israeli dream or to cite the viewpoints embraced by their former governments on excluding the Golan from the Israeli Torah ambitions. These statements do not add anything new to the current situation nor do they advance the peace process or help realize a qualitative leap toward the accomplishment of a just and comprehensive peace. These statements are nothing but an acknowledgment of the fact that the Golan is Syrian land and that it will remain as such no matter how long the occupation remains.

Advancing the peace process and effecting a qualitative leap necessarily require an announcement of full withdrawal from the land back to the 4 June 1967 borders

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and from the occupied Lebanese lands without looking back and without maintaining anything that may violate the national sovereignty of Syria and Lebanon. Should the vestiges of occupation remain in place, they will always be reminiscent of the occupation and its history and the adverse consequences vis-a-vis the region and the world.

Only when there are true and real intentions to establish a just and comprehensive peace that would return rights to their owners and when Israel takes the initiative, in deed and not merely in words, to create an atmosphere conducive to full withdrawal and meet the requirements of replacing occupation with peace, will the ideas or ambitions of maintaining a presence even on a single inch of land and through any means become nothing but trifles that do not fall in line with the nature of an effective peace which the entire world seeks to realize — peace that would eliminate such illusions and ambitions from the region regardless of their security grounds or false justifications.

Hence, Israel's responsibility for the failure to realize peace thus far is all the more clear to all. The vision according to which Israel shapes its positions is still flawed and fails to perceive either the present or future of peace. Therefore, the very slow steps that have thus far been accomplished are not enough to complete the peace marathon — which needs full preparation and an ability to cover distances without looking back. and hence requires a renunciation of the policy of ambitions and making gains at the expense of other's territory and rights.

Peace is an equation whose chief component is land. Anything less than full and unconditional withdrawal from the land will render peace prone to what it is currently subjected. Israel should be held responsible before the entire world if it fails to take the necessary steps to advance the peace process.

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive for Visit

JN1207171095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, arrived in Damascus at 1400 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Leading those who received him at Damascus International Airport was His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Also receiving him were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister and head of the honor mission; Yusuf Jum'ah, charge d'affairs of the Syrian Embassy in Sanaa; and Hasan Dalal, charge d'affairs of the Yemeni Embassy in Damascus. [passage omitted]

The two presidents then held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ali Khalil, minister of social affairs and labor; Minister of Agriculture As'ad Mustafa; and Nabil al-Mallah, minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs.

On the Yemeni side the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; including Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Advisers to the President Muhammad Salim Ba-Sindwah and Dr. Hasan al-Salami; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives for foreign affairs and parliamentary relations; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ba-Fadl, minister of fish resources; and 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bishri, secretary general of the republic's presidency.

In a statement to newsmen on arrival in Damascus, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: We are very pleased to pay an official visit to the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic, in response to a kind invitation from brother President Hafiz al-Asad, for consultations on various issues and developments of concern to our sisterly countries and developments on the Arab and international scenes. These developments include the peace steps in the region, which has witnessed accelerating changes aimed at warding off tension and the threat of war and securing the legitimate rights of the Arab nation. We in the Republic of Yemen support all the steps and efforts being made by sisterly Syria under brother President Hafiz al-Asad — efforts aimed at settling outstanding issues in a manner that will guarantee Arab rights in full and ensure a just and enduring peace for the region.

He added: This visit comes within the framework of constant consultations and coordination to boost the two countries's efforts to put the Arab house in order in a way that will ensure unity of rank and the restoration and enhancement of Arab solidarity. The Arab nation is currently at a significant crossroads. This behooves all Arab leaders to resort to reason and dialogue to overcome all hardships, no matter how great, with a spirit of responsibility and fraternity and to work for a better future for the nation. There is no doubt that this visit will be an opportunity to become acquainted with the achievements of the Syrian people in the area of development — achievements made under the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the interest of sisterly Syria's prosperity.

Expanded, Closed Meetings Held

JN1207200395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting at the People's Palace at 1800 today.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ali Khalil, minister of social affairs and labor; Minister of Agriculture As'ad Mustafa; Nabil al-Mallah, minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs; and Yusuf Jum'ah, charge d'affairs of the Syrian Embassy in Sanaa.

On the Yemeni side the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

This expanded meeting was followed by a closed meeting between his excellency the president and the Yemeni president. Talks dealt with the Arab situation in general, the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations, and issues of common concern.

TISHRIN Comments on Talks

JN1307070595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the Syrian-Yemeni talks, saying: Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad are of a special importance. The visit has come to crown persistent efforts in which Syria has played a major role in clearing the atmosphere between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, in defusing the crisis between them, and later in the Yemeni-Saudi agreement on the border problem between the two countries.

TISHRIN notes: The Yemeni-Saudi agreement has reinforced stability in the Gulf region. It is an unequivocal proof that Arab differences can be settled through dialogue and fraternal spirit. This positive atmosphere should be exploited to encourage the Arabs to settle their differences through dialogue and agreement on the nation's major issues.

TISHRIN says: Syrian-Yemeni relations are historic and have always been characterized by fraternity and understanding. These relations should be promoted further. The 1,000-mile journey begins with the first step, and Syria and Yemen have made important strides.

The paper adds: President Salih's visit will add a new brick to Syrian-Yemeni relations, and promote them in the service of the two fraternal countries' interests and the nation's efforts to achieve solidarity. From this premise, the visit is of special importance. It is welcomed by Syria, its leadership, and people.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria will continue to be the Arabs' conscience and watchful eye, and will not stop calling for solidarity and unity. It will also continue to be honest to its word and pledge. It will not relinquish land and right, and place the nation's higher interests above any other considerations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Reportedly Meets With Saudi Prince

LD1107145195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported that Prince Bandar Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and his delegation met with brother Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, in Parachinar last Thursday [6 July]. The report says that brother Hekmatyar came from his base on the Afghan-Pakistan border and that Prince Bandar Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz came from Islamabad to Parachinar for the meeting.

The report says that nothing has been made public about the meeting but talks were held on the situation in our country. It is said that the talks were held at the request of Prince Bandar Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Plan for Resolving National Issues Proposed

LD1207181695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic State of Afghanistan's plan regarding the solution of the country's issues, dated 2 July 1995:

In accordance with its Islamic and peace-seeking policy, the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] has always been following the path of peace and understanding in finding a solution to the country's problem. In believing that the historic pride of this country is the result of heroism and self-sacrifice of its Muslim and courageous people of this country, the ISA emphasizes the principle of going to the people and regards the participation of all people in determining their future as the only way to solve the issues and the problems in Afghanistan.

In order to find a durable solution for the current issues of Afghanistan, after objective consideration of the actual and historic facts of society, the ISA puts forward the following plan. This plan will be implemented in two stages [words indistinct].

1. In order to (?accelerate) the peace process in Afghanistan, the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization [OIC] should open headquarters of their activities in the city of Kabul.

2. In order to successfully resolve the current problems of the country, no [word indistinct] gathering should be allowed to convene outside the country.

3. The United Nations and the OIC must, when starting their new round of activities, take serious action to stop foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

4. The United Nations, the OIC, and other circles should maintain their neutrality in the course of finding a solution to the issues.

5. Going to the people should be observed as an accepted principle.

6. The United Nations and the OIC should supervise the process of restoring peace.

7. All efforts which are being made for the consolidation of peace must assist the strengthening of peace and should not disrupt the existing stability of the situation.

8. International guarantees must be given for the implementation of agreements.

9. A cease-fire must be introduced to synchronize the reaching of an agreement on this proposal and the reopening of roads.

Stage one: The formation of a commission to convene the national and Islamic Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly].

Article One: Representatives of Afghan provinces and universities and members of the Supreme Court and the Academy of Science shall be members of the Loya Jerga.

Article Two: The United Nations shall make special efforts to get the agreement of the state and its opponents on a single mechanism.

Article Three: Duties of the commission for convening the Loya Jerga [passage indistinct].

3. [as heard] The convening of the primary session of the Loya Jerga.

Stage two: The convening of the Loya Jerga

Article One: The commission for the convening of the Loya Jerga shall convene the Loya Jerga under the approved regulations within one year following holding the first session.

Article Two: The Loya Jerga shall be convened in such a way as to represent the administrative units and the population of the country.

Article Three: Duties of the Loya Jerga:

1. to appoint the national leader;
2. to ratify the constitution;
3. to select the members of a parliament from among the Loya Jerga members in such a way as to represent the population and the administrative units of the country.

Note: The state is ready to reach an agreement with the opponents on their membership of the High Council of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

State and government during the year which is required for the implementation of this proposal.

India

Editorial Criticizes 'Pendulum-Like' U.S. Policy

BK0807142195 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 1 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "In a Trader Country's Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult to say whether the prime objective of Congressman Dan Burton's proposal was to please Pakistan or embarrass the Clinton administration, but by rejecting the proposal with a majority vote, the U.S. Congress has proven that the representatives of the U.S. people are not as uninformed about India as they were about two years ago. Still it cannot be gain said that the anti-India elements still have their significant influence on U.S. politics. Burton began his proposal with a wide-ranging condemnation of India — through which all anti-India elements like the Khalistani, the Pakistani, the terrorists, and others were kept in good humor —by raising a four-point demand to end all possible U.S. aid to India. Later, on the advice of his friends, he confined his proposal to just one point, that is, the violation of human rights. However, the spirited campaign launched by pro-India congressmen ensured the rejection of Burton's proposal. This made Burton and his friends suggest that India could be let off after a warning, for which deducting five million dollars from the aid amount to India would be just enough. But most of the members were not ready for it. The ruling Democratic Party, the President, the administration, and some Republican members were apprehensive lest this curtailment in aid should obstruct the process of improving relations with India. This could result in the Indian people going against the United States, but could also jeopardize U.S. trade interests in India. In all India receives from the United States about $70 million as aid. Its stoppage may not have any adverse effect on the Indian economy, but this would definitely incur losses many times over for U.S. economic interests. This is the reason the U.S. Administration has been opposing these proposals from the beginning.

The U.S. Administration has formulated a pendulum-like policy with India and Pakistan. If a tilt is detected towards one side, the other side automatically moves to maintain the balance. The U.S. Administration also had an anti-Pakistan proposal besides the anti-India proposal mentioned above, in which the government was severely criticized for not declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. The chairperson of the Republican investigation committee, Congressman Bill McCollum, warned that Pakistan has become a chief center to export terrorism all over the world. Other regions could also be inflicted with Pak-sponsored terrorism similar to what is happening in Kashmir because Pakistan has created a training center for terrorists from Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, and Afghanistan. The center has instructors with much fighting experience in Afghanistan. Pakistan's sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir helps it divert its own people's attention from other burning domestic issues, receive money from Islamic countries, and establish better relations with Central Asian countries. Hence Pakistan ought to be declared a terrorist country. The U.S. Administration rejected Mr. McCollum's and Robert Andrews' proposals, not because the United States deemed those charges against Pakistan to be wrong, but because by accepting them it would have appeared to be favoring India. But according to Congressman Andrews, the real reason is that if the U.S. relations with Pakistan become sour, it won't be possible for the United States to sell its arms to Pakistan. Thus like a shrewd businessman, the United States wants to keep both possible buyers under its thumb.

Minister, German Official Discuss Kidnappings

BK1207115595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Efforts are continuing to locate and free the foreign nationals kidnapped by militants in Kashmir. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, at a press conference in Bonn.

He said the terrorists who kidnapped the tourists are believed to be a front for an organization based in Pakistan. He said the terrorists and their foreign sponsors do not want elections in Kashmir, but New Delhi is determined to work for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Mukherjee, who is now visiting Germany, held talks with his counterpart, Dr. Klaus Kinkel. Germany supported India's stand that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally through dialogue. During the talks, Bonn also made it clear that there is no scope for internationalizing the issue. Mr. Mukherjee also had meetings with the German president and others.

On the issue of expansion of the UN Security Council, Dr. Kinkel said India should be in the Security Council because of its size and importance. Mr. Mukherjee told the German side that India's economic reforms are irreversible and the bilateral investment protection agreement is a significant step to promote German investment in India.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Editorial Views Kidnappings, Political Solution

BK1207114195 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Somewhat on course"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ironical as it may appear, the abduction of five Western tourists by Jammu and Kashmir militants has come as added confirmation of the advance signified by the just concluded visit to the state of a high-level central team. The kidnappings, which deserve the strongest denunciation, cannot but be seen as, above all, part of a desperate attempt to thwart the process of a political solution to the State's problem, and the plans for elections in particular.

It is precisely such a process that the team headed by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi was trying to promote. An offer of unconditional talks with militant groups and a reiteration of New Delhi's resolve to hold elections by November, were the main points of the team's message. What this testified to was the unchanged perspective on Kashmir at the highest political level. Prime Minister P V Narsimha Rao, who has recently taken personal charge of the Kashmir affairs, has made it known that he proposes to accord chief priority to a political settlement despite developments that may have threatened to throw the Government off such a course. Some criticism of the move should be expected on this account. Undue cynicism about the Centre's attempt would, however, appear to be unwarranted.

Charar Sharif was certainly a setback, but the recovery since then has been real, by all accounts. The extremist offensive threatened by the event has been contained effectively enough to enable the Centre to initiate a series of moves towards a dialogue. The determined exercise has been helped by the growing disenchantment in the Valley with the extremist threat. Proof of this is provided by the anxiety of the Hurriyat Conference to dissociate itself from the kidnappings. The initiative can also be strengthened by international appreciation indicated by Secretary- General Butrus Butrus-Ghali after a UN study of the human rights situation in the State. All this is no argument for any optimism. There can be none as long as the basic and biggest threat to normalisation in Kashmir comes from across the border. This, and such mischief as the abductions, must be met militarily, but without abandoning the course of a political solution and underrating the signs of hope on this front.

Iran

Daily Views Gore-Chernomyrdin Talks, Russian Ties

NC1107091795 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Jul 95 p 12

[Political commentary: "Friendship in Space; Disagreement on Earth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the talks between U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in a joint commission session in Moscow, agreements ranging from cooperation on oil exploration on Sakhalin Island to one on joint crime-fighting were signed. These agreements, which were signed after the space link between Russia's Mir space station and the U.S. Atlantis, were considered to be an example of the two countries' friendship and cooperation. But the commission's elation did not last long. The two countries' disagreements on fundamental issues such as Moscow-Tehran nuclear cooperation brought Gore and Cherenomyrdin crashing down to earth, and the Russian prime minister gave a negative reply to the U.S. vice president's demand to end the cooperation [between Moscow and Tehran]. Cherenomyrdin's answer came soon after Washington had tried to pressure Moscow through extensive propaganda.

Nevertheless, the reasons that Russia continues to cooperate with Iran are the same ones that cause the differences in relations with the United States. On one hand, Washington and Moscow have joint interests in the world, namely Middle East peace and the fight against terrorism and organized crime. But, on the other hand, these two countries' strategic interests in regional issues are different. Examples of this are NATO's eastern expansion and the United States' economic, political, and military influence in the Caucasus and Central Asia. These conflicting interests make both countries seek allies who can meet their security needs in light of these rivalries. Within this context, Iran—as the country with the longest borders with Central Asia and the Caucasus—is very important to the Kremlin. Also, Iran's proximity to the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is being taken into consideration by Russian strategists. Iran's significance is so great that Moscow believes that cooperating with it could—in addition to cutting the United States' hands off short of the Caucasus and Central Asia—prevent external influences from breaking up the northern Caucasus and the other Muslim-inhabited areas in Russia. Meanwhile, although both countries have special interests in this part of the world, the joint threat against them—that is, U.S. interference and NATO's presence on Russia's southern

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

borders and Iran's northern borders—makes Moscow and Tehran further strengthen their friendship.

Because of these needs, Russia and Iran began several years ago to cooperate regionally, both in Central Asia and the Caucasus and in the Persian Gulf. However, this cooperation has caused the enemies of peace and stability to be concerned. Also concerned are the supporters of hegemony in the region who discuss possible plans by Russia and Iran. These plans are as follows:

1. forming a Iran-Russia-Armenia triangle;
2. Russia cooperating militarily and having joint nuclear activities with Iran.

Nevertheless, a glance at Tehran-Moscow cooperation shows that, apart from some temporary rivalries, this cooperation has been peaceful. And a good example of this is Karabakh and Tajikistan. But the United States' provocative efforts, such as deploying the Fifth Fleet to the Persian Gulf, which also threatens the peace and stability of the eastern Mediterranean, will not affect the positive process of the two countries' cooperation.

'Expert' Rejects Amnesty International Criticism

LD1207132095 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Amnesty International in its annual report has once again criticized Iran for alleged human rights violation.

In its report published last week in 353 pages, the London-based body raised allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran mostly fabricated by sources such as the terrorist Mojahidin-e Khalq organization (MKO), the U.S. intelligence services and the Zionist regime.

In three pages allocated to Iran, Amnesty International claimed that political detentions, unjust trials and summary executions continued in Iran in the past year.

Without giving proof, the organization has claimed that in 1994 a number of Iranian religious minority figures outside the judicial system of the country, were murdered.

However, the report has failed to mention the assassination of a number of Christian pastors in Iran by the MKO terrorists, three of whom have explicitly admitted involvement in the crime.

The three MKO agents are currently on trial in an open court in the presence of domestic and foreign correspondents.

The report has further alleged that Iranian revolutionary courts are still convicting political opponents to death sentences opponents, adding that the courts are deprived of international standards.

Allegations such as 'execution of all opponents' and 'unhuman' or 'non-standard' nature of judiciary courts in Iran have always been repeated in similar reports without giving any proof or evidence.

Organizations such as Amnesty International which are under the full influence of the big powers have introduced those who have been punished for drug trafficking or robbery as political opponents and referred to their punishment as violation of human rights.

A public rights expert has regretted that in the contemporary era issues related to the human rights have been completely politicized, adding that organizations such as Amnesty International would formulate their reports under the political pressure of influential Western or Zionist circles.

The expert added that countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran which are trying to adopt an independent stance in international circles are target of such propaganda hue more than other countries.

However, such reports would never refer to the violation of rights of million Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir or Afghanistan, he stressed.

Velayati Discusses Crisis With Bosnian Leaders

LD1307062495 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA — The Bosnian president and foreign minister discussed latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina in separate telephone conversations with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [12 July] evening.

Referring to recent attacks of Serbs on Srebrenica, declared by the U.N. as a safe haven, President Alija Izetbegovic told Velayati that the Serbs have rendered all 40,000 Muslim residents of Srebrenica homeless and have even driven the U.N. peacekeeping forces out of the enclave.

Under present circumstances, the helpless people of Srebrenica have been left alone at the hands of the Serbs, said the Bosnian president adding that the Serbs have also attacked another U.N.- declared safe haven in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Zepa.

He thanked the Iranian nation and government for their all-out assistance to Bosnia and said the Bosnian people would never forget the support of their Iranian brothers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Foreign Minister, Muhamed Sacirbegovic, in his telephone contact, asked that the third tripartite meeting of the Iranian, Bosnian and Greek foreign ministers be postponed for a few days.

The meeting was supposed to be held in Athens today to discuss the Bosnian crisis. The two first tripartite meetings, initiated by Iran, were held in Athens in March and again in Tehran in May, in an effort to establish truce in the war-torn B-H.

During the past two tripartite meetings, Bosnia-Herzegovina was represented by late Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic who was killed when his helicopter was shot down by Serbs on 28 May.

Briefing Velayati on recent developments in Bosnia, Sacirbegovic regretted that the situation was deteriorating there to such extent that even the cities declared by the U.N. as safe havens have come under Serbian attacks.

Referring to his latest diplomatic activities and negotiations with the representatives of the international Contact Group and those of the NATO, he called on Iran to continue using its influence to help resolve the crisis in Bosnia and in the Balkans as a whole.

Velayati, on his part, agreed on the postponement of the tripartite meeting for a few days and said that problems now facing the Bosnian nation and government were understandable.

He added that various diplomatic measures taken by Iran, including holding of the tripartite meetings, have been confirmed and supported by the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He vowed that Iran would do all within its power to vindicate the denied rights of the Muslim people of Bosnia.

Velayati regretted that Western countries were wasting time and doing contrary to what they have already said. They did not show any effective or serious reaction to the aggressors, stressed the foreign minister.

Although the U.N. have obliged residents of Bosnian cities declared as safe-havens to surrender their arms to U.N. peacekeeping forces, they (U.N. forces) have so far done nothing to defend the disarmed residents of the Bosnian cities.

Commentary Blames UN for Fall of Srebrenica

LD1207113095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The title of our first commentary is the capture of the town of Srebrenica by the Serbs.

The occupation of Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, aroused extensive reaction in international media yesterday and today. The worrying situation in the besieged town of Srebrenica has created waves of fear and anxiety among the town's residents.

With the start of the first attacks by the Serb forces, the United Nations' peacekeeping forces deployed around the town evacuated their positions, abandoning tens of thousands of suffering people without the least means of defense before the Serbs. There is no doubt that the reason behind the increasing acts of aggression by the Serbs against safe areas in Bosnia, including the town of Srebrenica, is the lack of strong resolve shown by the powers involved in the crisis. This is a fact which the Serbs have learned on numerous occasions and they are trying to strengthen their position and increase their bargaining power in the peace talks by attacking vulnerable areas in that republic.

One of the most important factors motivating the Serbs in all this has been the stance and deeds of the members of the Western Contact Group who, by accepting the existing situation in the region, have implicitly stressed the impossibility of changing things, confronting the Muslims with a fait accompli. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of political analysts, the fall of Srebrenica in the face of Serb attacks, which has occurred in reaction to the victories of Bosnian troops in other parts of that republic, is a turning point in the events in that region.

Without a doubt, the direct responsibility for the recurrence of such incidents in the future will fall on UN officials and the Western Contact Group. At any rate, now that the violent logic of the ruinous war in Bosnia dictates that Muslims should become victims, on a daily basis, of the collusion between the Serbs and their Western supporters, there is no excuse whatsoever for any vigilant and knowledgeable nation not to extend serious and open support to the defenseless Muslims of that republic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Japanese Official Stresses Importance of Ties

LD1107104895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The director-general [for Middle East and African affairs] of the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced that the Japanese Government attaches great importance to maintaining close ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that it is ready for further practical steps to advance bilateral relations.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran this morning, Kensaku Hogen also explained Japan's views on the meeting of the world's industrial countries in Halifax and noted that Tokyo will continue its ties and cooperation with Tehran in all fields.

For his part, Velayati expressed satisfaction with the increasing ties between Iran and Japan and the positive and practical steps taken in recent years to strengthen cooperation. He said: The two countries must strive with astuteness to consolidate ties even further.

Iraqi Envoy Calls For Total Cooperation

LD1207122195 Tehran IRNA in English 1054 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Iraq's Charge d'Affaires to Iran, Salah Nouri Samarmad, called for all-out cooperation between Iran and Iraq in a meeting with head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Alinaqi Khamoushi, here Wednesday [12 July].

Samarmad noted that Iran was known in interantional organizations as a country pursuing an independent policy. He expressed hope that Iran would help Iraq maintain its independence.

Khamoushi, in response, expressed willingness to establish trade relations between the two countries and said negotiations have been held for promotion of commercial and trade ties. Iran expected its relations with Iraqi to further expand within the framework of international laws and regualtions, Khamoushi said.

Paper Criticizes Turkish Action in Northern Iraq

LD1007190495 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — Turkish army once again launched an offensive against the Turkish Worker's Party (PKK) in northern Iraq which was followed by a complete silence on the part of the regional states and a delayed reaction of Baghdad government after 24 hours, Tehran's morning daily, AKHBAR [as received] said in its Monday [10 July] editorial.

The army operation of Turkey in northern Iraq would bring about negative impacts, the matter towards which if a proper stance was not clarified and a certain strategy was not declared, it might look like a common rule so that Turkey would use the pretext in the future to violate the security and the borders of any country and turn the region into an arena for its military operations.

Ankara, sometime ago violated Iranian space too and Turkish jet fighters bombed several Iranian frontier villages, the problem finished then with an apology only, the paper said.

In an area where ethnic groups are living in several neighbouring countries and the commonly ethnic characterisitcs surpassed the geographical bounds, the pretext to which Turkey resorted for justification of its army operation is very dangerous.

What Iraqis are passing through, depends at first on Iraqi people themselves and on the regional states at second, but the consequences of certain events are of supranational dimension and of a regional impact.

At present, Iraq's security is directly bound up with the regional security, but, Turkey makes its own definition of regional security, AKHBAR said.

Unfortunately, Turkey takes the silence on the part of the neighbour states as confirmation of its action in Iraq, but, Iran should regard the security in Iraq as one of the priorities of its diplomacy despite the remaining stumbling block in Tehran-Baghdad relations. The paper asked why Turkey does not respect the international law?

If the security zone of Turkey exceeded its borders with Iraq, what would happen then and what should Turkey do?. The editorial asked.

If a third country entered into Turkish soil for the same reason what will be Ankara's reaction? Does Turkey entitle others to the same rights? Tehran's morning daily argued.

Rafsanjani Stresses Role of Agriculture

LD1007185495 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today presiding over the first session of the Agricultural Supreme Council, underlined the importance of agriculture for achieving economic independence.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Referring to the important and strategic role of agriculture for breaking out of the dependency on the outside world, Rafsanjani called for further economic independence of the country.

He also expressed the need for providing the country's agriculture with the modern irrigation machinery.

Present at the session were Iranian ministers of agriculture, construction jihad, energy, industries, economics and finance, head of budget and plan organization and Central Bank governor.

Statement Issued at End of 'Victory-6' Maneuvers

LD1207213895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Khatim al-Anbiya' naval HQ issued a statement at the conclusion of the great Piruzi-6 [Victory-6] maneuver which was conducted in the azure waters of the Persian Gulf.

The statement says: The sea lions of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran's army carried out more than 186 different exercises and operations displaying the experience they gained during the eight years of the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war].

During this unprecedented show of power — conducted in an area of 14,000 square miles [as heard] in the northern region of the Persian Gulf — the defenders of the Islamic homeland and the combatants of the three armed forces — the army, the Guards, and the noble Basij Resistance Force — displayed to the whole world their solid determination and resolve in defending the Islamic revolution and the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable commander in chief of the armed forces.

Technology Transfer To Fit Internal Needs Viewed

95LA0249C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] As we know, the identity of the technical understanding of technology has not yet been properly understood in the Third World. For this reason, there are no specific factors, regulations, or scientific and technical parameters for achieving this goal. Yet by naming a subject or identifying the reasons for the existing malfunctions, at least the means or the direction for curing, pursuing, or correcting some of the deficiencies due to the lack of technical or technological knowledge can be found.

Despite the technical understanding of the technology of production in the true sense, anyone claiming to have this knowledge or who makes this claim falsely can engage in production without being able to justify it.

Unfortunately the lack of understanding of the identity of the technical knowledge of technology in society has led at times to individuals who do not have the least technical knowledge getting involved in the nation's basic technical and industrial economic affairs by establishing connections, setting a stage, and making false claims, thereby doing severe damage to the criteria and values of the technical knowledge of technology.

Today the economy of any nation, its production, and the exploration and extraction of its underground and agricultural reserves are directly connected to technical knowledge and basic scientific understanding.

Mr. Pauling, the famous chemist, said: Technical knowledge and understanding convert to production, and production converts to the basic economy. The lack of scientific study and the lack of technical understanding of technology in any branch of the sciences will damage society. It even diverts the specialists, as we know from many examples.

A number of specialists, without regard for their specializations and professions, become brokers and vendors because this method of direct service produces a short-term capital return on the one hand, and on the other hand there is no need to employ scientific thought and absorb enormous expenses for research and project construction.

Clearly a society with that kind of technical understanding of technology is headed for disintegration, and this will lead to backwardness and economic disruption in the market. It turn, it also creates favorable conditions for opportunists. This unacceptable procedure has no place at all in countries with an industrial spirit. In these countries a sound industrial environment has been planned with a high technical understanding of technology and they have seen the fruitful results. They are moving toward the best future possible with extreme bias and earnestness by working for technical knowledge and science. In this regard, every month they publish thousands of publications with strong scientific and technical content.

We know well that technical and technological understanding cannot be imported. All planning for technical knowledge controlled by the industrial nations in the Third World is based on low-level technology. Low-level technology actually has specific principles and rules and is dependent on scientific technical knowl-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

edge with specific indicators, which will be destroyed with the slightest deviation.

Non-technical matters have no special dependence on chemical, physical, and mathematical parameters and laws. Yet involvement by ignorant people lacking competence in scientific and technical affairs and in the industrial economy has done and will do irreparable damage to progress, and a nation's lack of understanding of technology will also cause greater involvement by individuals affiliated with foreigners and ignorant of production affairs.

Technical knowledge and technology were not established and developed overnight. They are the result of around the clock effort for about 120 years by scholars at a cost of billions of dollars, half of which yielded no result. Astonishing and extraordinary changes have been wrought in this regard, especially in this last half century. The understanding of technology is indebted to the analysis and study of the environment and the solar system.

We know that photosynthesis draws sunlight using chlorophyl and with the help of ATP to break down water and draw in carbon dioxide to produce 400 billion tons of oxygen per year and 150 billion tons of carbohydrates. It also produces visoproloids [as transliterated] (terpene steroids) and hormones, resins, dyes, alkaloids, plant proteins, and fats. The actions and reactions of photosynthesis play a role in the cultivation of agricultural crops. By identifying the chemical actions and reactions and the actions and reactions of substances and cells, they have succeeded in identifying the state, the system, the order, and the formation of the earth and the solar system. They make extensive use in various ways of nuclear resonance rays and energy to identify the substances and disturbances in an organism and perform surgery.

In addition to identifying the elements making up the earth and the heavenly bodies, scholars have already succeeded in identifying their fundamental formations and reactions and various areas. Some 17 million types of organic substances with their various physical, chemical, and physiological properties are being used from fossil substances, oil, rock coal, and oil-bearing slate, animals, and plants to produce and market micro-molecular drugs, plastics, tires, fibers, resins, paints, health care substances, decorative substances, pesticides, fertilizers and poisons, hormones, and vitamins using synthetic processes and homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts running on industrial energy and under controlled production conditions. The production of all these organic chemical compounds was derived from photosynthesis and biosynthesis.

It is necessary to note that about 60 years ago the German scholars Staudinger and Kern successfully applied a method of analysis to identify the structure of the isoprene molecule in a latex emulsion. Thanks to the identification of the macromolecule isoprene, the procedures for polymerization, polycondensation, and polyaddition were established, and through this method they were able to produce synthetic rubber. Today millions of references (publications) are issued on the production of macromolecules.

Currently the extraction from mines, the smelting of metals, and the production of various metal alloys is done through the understanding of the physical and chemical characteristics of the elements, and this has a special place in the construction of all equipment and machinery.

During the seventies in the current century C.E. [Common Era; A.D.] biosynthesis has come to be especially important in the application of production systems. Day by day the clarification of the active and reactive abilities of nuclei and DNA is a significant help in finding ways to treat or prevent fatal diseases.

Solving all these important scientific problems needs scientific and long-term economic investment; sufficient work must be done and time must be spent. Unfortunately, so far in the Third World sufficient attention has not been paid to this great and vital scientific objective. This has caused weakness in the technology of basic production and in the utilization of natural resources, and this cannot be dealt with in the midst of the economic malfunctions that beset most of the Third World nations.

Investment in non-technological short-term projects such as construction is in the nature of service work and does nothing to enrich the nation's economic base. After a short period of this, investment loses its value for various reasons. We know that it is not possible to buy technical knowledge (patents) exclusively from outside the country. As a rule patents that are transferred from abroad at a cost of millions of dollars lose their world competitiveness for various reasons after a short time. The kind of patent that is allowed to be exported out of a country and sold to various Third World nations become public and do not have high-level technological and scientific value.

In view of these considerations, it appears that without attention to the following, it will not be possible to overcome the obstacles to a technical understanding of technology in the Third World:

1. complete, realistic, and unconditional support for industrial and specialist research projects, with an under-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

standing of the identity of the technical knowledge of technology and the related issues, while providing the needed positions, livelihood and credits;

2. the creation of an appropriate and favorable atmosphere with regard to looking to the future and providing the necessary awareness to society to gain an understanding of the issues in a technical understanding of technology by providing the necessary explanations of the specific technical and scientific parameters in the true sense;

3. organizing the research and pilot programs for a technical understanding of technology with a full understanding of the past and latest results gained from the foundations of production, in view of the nation's situation and needs;

4. preventing occupational and moral deviation and empty statements from individuals on production goals, and encouraging specialists and intellectuals to innovate and spread the technical knowledge of technology.

HAMSHAHRI Reports on Housing Market

95LA0270A Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian
31 May 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] **What Is Happening in the Housing Market?**

The Housing Market: Shortcomings, Solutions

Experts: One of the Current Problems in Iran Is the Strong Tendency Toward Owning Housing Instead of Renting

[Boxed item] **An expert: In housing production, instead of concentrating on building luxury homes, the principle of simple construction must be observed.**

Economic experts consider the role of the government and leadership as essential in solving the housing market problems. [end boxed item]

[Boxed item] The problem of housing in Iran has become an old wound. Out of a total of 12 million Iranian families, only 13 percent—that is, less than 1.6 million families—live in rental residences, and housing is always mentioned as a great social problem because these families have mainly collected in two or three large cities in the country, especially in Tehran. So, what is the problem with the housing market and what is happening in this market?

First, it seems that despite the efforts made in recent years, housing supply and production, especially in the urban sector, have never been able to keep up with demand. Annually, more than 450,000 marriages take place in the country, while annual housing production has rarely reached in some years 270,000 units, not to mention the attrition of existing residential units.

Second, due to lack of a sound market in housing and related services and also lack of a clear legal system, at the present time renting has become a dreaded and exhausting struggle both for the tenant and the landlord, and this affects both the price and availability of rental housing and also prevents new investments in this important sector of the national economy. In few societies is living in rental housing regarded as so ill-favored and dangerous.

Third, it seems that government officials must play a more effective role and share in the process of guiding and organizing the housing sector and attracting the loose capital to it through devising clear and beneficial policies.

Considering the essential role of the share of land in housing costs, appropriate tools in this regard are at the disposal of the government.

Tax exemptions must also be offered with the goal of mass production instead of individual construction.

Finally, despite the relatively small number of families who live in rental housing compared to the total number of families in the country, this fact is important: most of these families are in the lower-income groups and must be seriously supported with the necessary policies vis-a-vis the increasing trend of inflation in the housing sector. [end boxed item]

The high price of housing has become one of the greatest problems of a significant segment of the population, especially the young people and a large group of families.

In recent years, the rate of inflation and the existing fluctuations of foreign currency in the society have also affected the housing sector and changed housing to a commodity that becomes more expensive every day. In this process, having a shelter has become a wish for the low-income strata of the society, a wish that has preoccupied the minds of 15 million young people of marriage age.

The increasing price of housing parallel to the decrease in the value of the national currency has caused a deep gap between the fixed-income applicants, on the one hand, and available housing, on the other. According to studies, the average purchase price of housing in urban areas is 10-12 times the average annual income of families.

Experts believe that part of the housing crisis starts when the wages and salaries of individuals do not increase at the same pace with expenditures.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Naser Nikuseresht, the director general of the National Land and Housing Organization, writes in an article: "At the time that Resolution 598 was issued, the portion of the cash flow that was used for buying and selling foreign currency moved toward housing. Because of lack of familiarity with production, the investments that entered concentrated on the buying and selling of housing as investment commodities, causing the rapid increase in the price of housing, without regard for the purchasing power of needy families. With the rejuvenation of the import sector, including facilitation of the import of foreign-made cars, the cash flow moved toward the import sector. The result of this unforeseen entry and exit was a false and temporary boom followed by a recession in the housing sector."

He believes:

"Once again the time has come for the loose capital resulting from the decreased attractiveness of other markets and also the financial and monetary policies in the housing market to move toward the construction market. Hence, effective guidance of the investments toward production and facilitation to create a balance between supply and demand of housing is necessary."

Price Fluctuation

A citizen from Khorasan Square, who is looking for a home to buy, says:

"Four months ago I priced a house in Khorasan Square with 300 square meters under construction. Now that I have gone to buy that same house, the seller has increased the price by 50 percent. Why should the price of a house increase by 7 million tumans in four months?"

Ya'qubi, who has gone to Property Center No. 8 of the Tehran City Hall to buy a house, expressing his unhappiness about the instability of prices, says:

"Since winter of 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] I have been looking for a house, but every time I come here, I face higher prices. Our savings of many years might not equal the increase in the price of housing in the past few months."

Lack of stability of prices in the housing market has caused concern for the group with limited savings who, with the increase in the prices, will lose their purchasing power. For example, in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] alone, the average cost of construction per square meter of housing increased by 17 percent compared to the previous year, and the increase in the price of construction materials during the same period was 33 percent.

Experts say that one of the current problems that escalates the housing crisis in Iran is the strong inclination of people to own instead of rent their residences, and they believe that the desirability of ownership creates a great demand for housing and causes increased prices.

Dr. Khatib, an economic expert, says in this regard:

"The violation of landlord-tenant laws, lack of stability in the price of rent, and the problems of living in rental residences at the present have caused even low-income people to try to own their house, whereas in most countries, only people with a surplus cash flow buy housing. In Iran, increased demand does not coincide with increased income."

He adds:

"In some cases, in order to increase their ability to buy a home, people even omit expenditures in other areas. This kind of thinking indicates lack of confidence in the future.

"Lack of guaranteed laws creates the expectation in the person that it is possible for him to remain a drifter forever, and the response to this idea is to join that group of citizens in the market for a house."

Hence, if by amending the landlord-tenant law and the present requirements, and if laws offer more assurance to the landlord and the tenant, first, loose capital will increasingly move toward the housing sector, and second, living in rental housing will no longer be so chaotic and problematic.

Adherence to Simple Construction

Migration is also one of the factors in the increase in the price of housing. In fact, the housing crisis in Iran started in 1344 [21 March 1965-20 March 1966], simultaneous with "land reform." In those years, the existence of attractions and resources in the cities and also the difference between incomes in the cities and villages forced massive migration to the cities and increased the number and share of urban families, whereas housing construction did not keep up in proportion to this increase.

Making the above statement, Dr. Ebrahim Razzaqi says: "After the Islamic revolution, by devising the housing construction policy the government began granting loans to individuals who lacked housing. With the end of the imposed war, too, the government, by granting the necessary funds and encouraging investors, tried to increase production of housing, but most investors who were after the highest profit engaged in building luxury homes, and because the construction materials used in these homes were costly, the price of housing went up automatically."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A glance at the city shows the inequality and differences in the kind of family housing in various parts of the city. While in the northern part of the city, luxury homes with few residents are no longer exceptions and have become relatively common, in the southern part of the city, not only are large residential high-rises and buildings not seen, but many of the "homes" shelter numerous residents with only 40 to 50 square meters.

Available statistics also show that, unfortunately, contrary to the clear text of the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan of the country regarding the use of all possible mechanisms to "encourage the people to reduce the residential level under construction and support low-income groups," the outcome of the plan has not conformed much to its goals. Of course, as a result of these policies, the coefficient of the number of housing units in one building that represents more use of land and more accumulation reached from 1.15 units in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to 1.6 units in 1372. Also, the share of units with less than 100 square meters increased to 36 percent of total residential units.

On the other hand, the average area of constructed residential units not only did not decrease, but the average of 145 square meters in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] reached 147 square meters in 1372, whereas the general policy of the government was to build 75-square-meter homes. This symptom shows that while construction of small homes increased, the building of very large houses also has escalated and the housing market has become severely polarized.

Government Supervision Over Prices

Indeed, what is the rule of the government as an implemental leverage in organizing the housing market? If some individuals have found the opportunity to disturb the climate more, why does the government not create order in the housing market by devising clear laws and imposing punishment? On the basis of which law can the price of a home increase by several hundred thousand tumans between 1100 and 2100?

These statements are by a citizen who has spent several months looking for a suitable home within his price range.

Economists consider the role of government in organizing the housing market inevitable. Dr. Razzaqi believes: "Since supply is always after more profit, the housing market must not be completely entrusted to the private sector. Only by playing its guiding role can the government control and supervise the price of housing. Lack of government control results in the vulnerability of the low-income strata in the society."

He adds: "One of the factors in the increasing price of housing is the cost of construction materials. Iranian construction materials have direct foreign currency costs, and exported materials have indirect foreign currency costs, so that construction material costs for every 35 square meters is $50.

According to available statistics, in 1372 the cost of cement and cement products increased by 59.8 percent, iron and steel by 28 percent, and construction machinery by 50 percent. In the same year, construction wages also increased between 14.2 and 26.3 percent compared to 1371.

Some economic experts believe: "Since the high price of housing, like other goods, has its roots in the existing rate of inflation in the society, and in this process, the government support for the low-income strata in the society is necessary, the government can reduce the problem of the high cost of housing for the middle strata to some extent through financial subsidies and involvement in housing distribution procedures. At the present, the place of the government as a guiding and advising system in the housing market is unclear."

Indeed, will the housing crisis end with the decrease in the price of housing? A senior housing expert believes:

"It should be taken into consideration that a recession in the housing sector also has some detrimental effects. In conditions of economic recession, there is no incentive for investment in housing construction, especially in mass production."

Hence the need for proper planning and management by the government is felt in the housing sector, which can play a dual role in encouraging the investors to absorb the existing cash flow in the housing production sector and, on the other hand, supporting the low-income strata in the society by offering the necessary advantages and loans.

Also, Dr. Khatib says in this connection: "It is only the government sector that takes public interest into consideration. The private sector concerns itself with the profit of the investors who bring the capital to the housing sector when it is profitable. If production costs increase, the private sector producers are not inclined to invest. When the demand is for high-priced homes, the private sector is prepared to invest."

A university professor says:

"Parallel to the increase in housing loans in 1373, the price of housing also increased, and since under inflationary conditions, buying a house is considered a sort of investment, many people are in the market for housing. In this process, a group of people joined

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

those in the market for housing who cannot not afford installment payments. Hence, a sort of false demand was created, which resulted in the rise in prices."

In 1372, the index of prices in the housing sector, fuel, and lighting increased by 18.8 percent compared to 1371, whereas the same figure regarding the total rate of inflation reached 22.9 percent. Also, at the end of 1373, an increase in the total price of housing in the country was about half the increase in the general level of prices which indicates a severe recession in this sector up to the end of last year [20 March 1995].

He regards the production of public housing by the government and access of low-income strata to it an effective step toward support for this stratum.

Solutions

—Change the motto of ownership of housing to rental housing in order to decrease demand. In order to reach this goal, the reform of the landlord-tenant laws and creation of confidence in the minds of tenants and landlords are necessary.

—Essential and rooted prevention of uncontrolled migration to cities, which depends on providing public services, employment, health, and recreational resources in villages and small cities.

—Granting banking funds and loans to producers and builders of rental housing in order to encourage investors to use the existing capital in the housing sector.

—Adherence to the principle of simple construction of housing and guiding investors to build small residences instead of luxury homes in order to meet the actual needs of the society and those in the housing market.

—Investments in the rental mass production housing sector by organizations and establishments, such as city halls and Social Security.

—Designing an efficient financial system in the housing sector, effectively guiding investments toward production, and adjusting supply and demand for housing.

Pakistan

U.S. 'Dirty Games' Against Muslim World Criticized

BK1007100695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US neo-imperialism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In pursuance of its neo-imperialist policies in the Middle East the American government has decided to maintain a strong military presence in the Gulf region by permanently stationing its newly created Eighth Fleet in the Gulf with its base in Bahrain which has gladly permitted the US to use its territory. The US-Israel plan is to hold down if not destroy the two most powerful countries on the Persian Gulf. The whole drama of the Desert Storm was staged to bring about the destruction of Iraq's military machine and its future potential. Earlier, the US had instigated the Iraqis to wage a prolonged war against Iran. Since, this did not go far enough in achieving the aim, the US succeeded in enticing Iraq to pounce upon Kuwait. With Iraq falling into this trap, Washington unleashed the full might of its hi-tech weaponry on Baghdad and within a few days destroyed the Iraqi army and a great deal of Iraq's industrial installations. The US is still not easing its embargo and is trying to annihilate Iraq economically.

To the US's misfortune Iran has a far sighted and wise government which is making rapid strides towards economic development. Accusing Iran of making atomic weapons and supporting terrorism all over the world, the US is imposing an economic blockade to choke off Iran's business with other nations. But alarmed at American aims and tactics, other industrial countries so far are firmly opposed to American efforts to isolate Iran from the world. Germany, Japan and Russia have refused to accept American advice to break trade links with Iran. The attempts to destroy Iran by isolating it from its trading partners having failed miserably, now the US is planning to use more direct methods of dealing with the country. Taking a leaf from nineteenth century British gunboat diplomacy it now plans to station its Fifth Fleet permanently in the Gulf to keep all countries on the Persian Gulf in a state of permanent subjugation. In the old days of the cold war such action was justified by raising the bogey of the evil Soviet Union's attempts to get to the warm waters of the Arabian Sea. Now after the disappearance of this fig leaf, the US is resorting to colonial tactics brazen facedly.

There is no denying the fact that the Desert Storm did some good. It taught the Arabs a valuable lesson. Even those Arabs who were most loyal to the US learnt that the Desert Storm was a war fought by US weaponry paid for by the Arabs and the benefits of this went only to Americans and the Israelis. Understandably there is a growing hatred of America, and its surrogates in the Middle East. The steady stream of propaganda against what the West describes as Muslim fundamentalism or radical Islam is rudely jolting the Arabs, whose reaction to this does not leave much to imagination. Muslim movements in the Middle East are gathering strength day by day. Even some rulers of the Arab world have a dim of realisation that their close relationship with America is an embrace of death and the sooner they

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

distance themselves from the US imperialists the safer will they be. They have, in the past been most careful in building close ties with the US who appeared to them to be their best protector and safeguard against their own people. Now they see that Saudi Arabia has been reduced to bankruptcy by the Desert Storm. Saudi people are aware that the US troops are in actual possession of their oil wells and that they are being held down by the real masters of their land and wealth. Inevitably, the rulers of Bahrain will rue the day they agreed to allow the Fifth Fleet to occupy their ports. It will not be long before all Arabs realise that all American plans in the Middle East and in particular in the Gulf have been aimed at gaining complete control of their region's wealth. The American presence in the Gulf cannot but be an affront to all self-respecting Muslims and will fan the hatred that most Muslims feel for the American game.

The US must understand that it will not be able to provoke or instigate the Iranians to resort to any rash action that may give the Americans an excuse for using its military force in the region. Nor will Washington be able to justify to the world its decision to station its Fifth Fleet in the Gulf in the absence of any credible reason for such a provocative action. Many European and Asian countries are bound to look upon the American military presence in the Gulf as a destabilising factor and will not support US adventurism. To Pakistan this should be a matter of deep concern because it is in the region and has friendly relations with Iran and all Arab countries. It should not condone the US playing its dirty games at the expense of the Muslim world. We must lose no time in making our concern known to the US.

Daily Accuses U.S. of 'Dual Policy' on Kashmir

BK1307072295 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 7 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Kashmir Issue and the U.S. Duplicity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syed Ali Gilani, Jamaat-i-Islami leader of occupied Kashmir, has said that the United States is pursuing a dual policy on Kashmir. He added that elections are not the solution to the issue. What is needed is that the Kashmiris be given their right to self-determination as provided by the UN resolutions. He said that we cannot change our stand on Kashmir. Gilani is not only a Jamaat-i-Islami leader, he is a person revered by Kashmiris and one who represents the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. This is why he realized the reality behind the U.S. duplicity on the Kashmir issue and pointed it out in a timely fashion. Recently, the United States and other Western countries have increasingly been showing an interest in the Kashmir issue. There are circles in Pakistan that felt delighted with this development, claiming that they have succeeded in convincing the United States and the entire Western world of the Pakistani stand on Kashmir. They feel that it is time now to take advantage of the U.S. role and its influence in relation to the Kashmir issue. However, these circles fail to understand or deliberately ignore the fact that the U.S. interest in Kashmir is due to its own interests. If anyone feels that the United States has fallen in love with the Kashmiris or is convinced by Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir, he must be living in a fool's paradise.

What is interesting is that on the one hand, the United States describes Kashmir as a disputed territory, while on the other, it wants to settle the issue through elections. During his recent visit to occupied Kashmir, U.S. Ambassador to India Wisner termed the elections as a "solution" to the issue. This is the U.S. duplicity to which Ali Gilani drew the world's attention. The reality is that the United States considers India as a major regional power and wants to see its superiority maintained in the region. Therefore, in no circumstances, will it pursue a policy that will be damaging to India in the real sense. So the United States cannot be expected to support the Kashmiris' right to self- determination and to use its influences toward this end. There is evidence that indicates that the United States is trying to contain some of the leaders of Azad Kashmir and occupied Kashmir and enticing them in an attempt to realize its objective. We would like to caution that if the Pakistani and Kashmir leaders, even for once, deviate from their principled stand or withdraw from that even for "temporarily," then the whole matter will go out of their control and they will be swayed here and there by the pressure of circumstances and incidents.

For a long time, India did not allow any foreign diplomat to visit occupied Kashmir. However, now, it itself is taking the U.S. and Western diplomats to the occupied Kashmir. The reason for this is that the Indian Government feels that the United States and Western countries can play an important role in achieving the Indian objectives by persuading the Kashmiri leaders to take part in a fair election. Another aspect of the U.S. duplicity is that it is not willing to displease the Kashmiri leaders and people. This is why if it issues two statements in favor of holding elections, then simultaneously it issues four statements describing Kashmir as a disputed territory. The U.S. action is only a ploy to pass time. The United States wants the time to pass by, during which the strength of the freedom fighters is crushed so that Kashmiri leaders are forced to accept the Indian demands. It is a brazen reality that if a day comes when the Kashmiri freedom fighters lose

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their strength, then it will be day of retreat for the people of Kashmir, Pakistan and the whole Islamic world.

Kidnapped German Engineers Reportedly Released

BK1307071995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PESHAWAR, Pakistan July 13 (AFP) — Pathan tribesmen in northwestern Pakistan Thursday [13 July] released two German engineers after holding them hostage for more than two weeks, officials here said.

Friedrich Koehler and Horst Amon, who arrived here in the early morning, were in "good health, they said."

The Germans, wearing the region's traditional dress shalwar-kamiz (baggy trousers and long shirt), appeared in good spirits.

"It was like a long, frightful dream," Koehler said. But he added, "all is well since the end is well."

Tribesmen from the mountainous Orakzai region had abducted three German engineers and their Pakistani driver on June 25. One of the Germans, Gunter Maier, 56, and the driver, Enayatullah Khan, were released a week later on July 3.

A senior government official Gulzar Khan, said the abduction was masterminded by Jan Mohammed of the Stoorikhel clan from the rugged hilly area of Orakzai, 100 kilometers (62 miles) southwest of here.

The kidnapper had demanded six million rupees (200,000 dollars) as ransom, the official said. But Khan said the authorities had rejected the demand and the release was obtained "without any ransom."

The kidnapper was assured he would not be arrested "in this case," said Khan.

Other officials, however, said Jan Mohammed and his gang would be tried within a month.

"He has given us a tough time," said the official, who did not want to be identified. "We will teach him a lesson."

Amon aged about 50 is married. His wife lives in Peshawar and his son is working in Germany.

His unmarried compatriot, Koehler, 30, said the abductors continued to move the Germans from one hideout to another. "We were taken to seven different places over the past 17 days," he told reporters.

"They treated us well," he added. Demonstrating traditional Pathan hospitality, they frequently offered food, tea and cold drinks, he said.

"It was a memorable experience," he said.

The pair was set free before dawn Thursday in the tribal area and driven to Bara, 12 kilometres west of here. They reached Peshawar after three-hour stay in Bara, the last tribal settlement before Peshawar. The two were to be flown to Islamabad shortly.

A German embassy official confirmed the release. "The German government and the German embassy are " very relieved", an embassy official said in Islamabad.

The three Germans, employees of two electronic firms, Siemens and AEG, were abducted while driving in a jeep to their home in Peshawar from a nearby power station project.

Government, MQM Continue Official Talks

Minister Denies 'Outside Pressure'

BK1307082595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of talks between the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf group begins in Islamabad tomorrow. Both sides will present their points of view at the talks. The federal minister for law and justice, Mr. N.D. Khan, who heads the government's side at the talks, told newsmen in Islamabad today that he was in constant touch with the prime minister and she had given him clear directions to settle the matter through dialogue. He said the prime minister wants peace without violence. Mr. N.D. Khan said he also discussed with the prime minister today the government's point of view to be presented at the talks tomorrow. He made it clear that the government's decision to talk to the Altaf-group on the Karachi situation was without any inside or outside pressure and demonstrated its keenness to achieve political solution of the problem. He said we are not subject to any kind of pressure. We are guided by state pragmatism.

MQM Negotiator Views Talks

BK1207031395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Syed Nadeem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Talks between the government and the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] on Tuesday [11 July] ended on a note that they would again meet on Thursday to further discuss respective demands of both the sides.

The meeting started at 7:00 pm and continued for about 2 hours. The MQM team led by Ajmal Dehlvi, presented its 18 point agenda to the government. Other

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

MQM members were Tariq Javed, Shoaib Bukhari, Kazi Khalid and Sheikh Liaqat Hussain.

The official committee was spearheaded by Law Minister N.D. Khan, PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] Afaq Shahid and PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] dissident Zuhair Akram Nadim were the other members.

Later while talking to THE NATION, the MQM chief negotiator said the meeting was preliminary in nature but some good views were exchanged.

For him, the real working session would be the next round. He said the government had not put forward any formal agenda and had only mentioned something in a passing reference.

Mr. Dehlvi also desired that it would be good if Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah and government's ally Hamid Nasir Chattha also took part in the next meeting. He said he has no objection to Abdullah Shah sitting across the table. The Chief Minister is arriving in the federal capital on Wednesday from London.

The two sides discussed as to how the peace in Karachi could be restored. Dehlvi said his team had apprised the government of same facts about Karachi terrorism which were surprising for them.

An official announcement said that detailed discussion on the MQM demands would be held on Thursday (tomorrow) at 5:00 pm in Parliament House. The preliminary round focused on various political issues and exchange of views on the law and order situation in Karachi. Both sides agreed that all efforts should be made to restore peace in the strife-torn city.

The second round will address matters of immediate nature and the government would also bring along its formal agenda for talks in the next sitting. Ajmal Dehlvi, in his post meeting remarks said "The government's attitude was positive and his team was optimistic about the pace of talks." There was nothing more official comment [as published] available on the meeting.

Earlier in the day, the talks seemed to have suffered a sort of setback even before a formal beginning when Ajmal Dehlvi threw the hint that Muhajirs were heading for independence if their 18 point charter of demands was not accepted.

Ajmal Dehlvi said this in an interview to THE NATION on Tuesday, just hours before the talks were to begin in the evening. His comments pretty much summed up which way the talks are likely to go. It might not be possible for the government to accept many of their demands. A break through can only be achieved if the MQM is willing to compromise on some of them which seems a distant possibility, at least not after listening to the views of Mr. Dehlvi.

During his interview, he added another set to the 18 points, demanding large-scale tax exemptions for the urban populated areas of Sindh. The new document also demanded declaring Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Murpurkhas and Nawabshah as "affected areas."

The MQM leader did not appear as if he had come to talk and accommodate. He said so many things which are not expected of a person who is here to negotiate or mend fences.

He was in a mood to tell the government what his party was preparing for. From the government to army to Supreme Court, he criticised functionaries of every institution.

While replying to a question, he said the people of Karachi had started talk about a separate province, after getting fed up with the government's oppressive measures and non-acceptance of their rights.

"But if this continues for some more time, then I am afraid the history would give its verdict just like it did in 1971. When asked whether he was a talking about complete independence, he said yes.

His comments reminded one of a remark made some time back by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who had said that if Karachi was handed over to Altaf Group, they would first declare a separate province and then sign a unilateral declaration of independence.

The government sources say in the recent past. Altaf Hussain during his secret conversations with the party leaders, had started expressively talking about an independent homeland. Dehlvi's assessment appeared to be a reflection of that guideline.

Otherwise, why would he choose this particular occasion to go a step further in weakening the country's solidarity. He said the talks could be the last opportunity to keep the country united. The MQM leader cautioned the government that there would be a big tragedy if the talks failed.

According to him, the government had been forced to hold dialogue under both internal as well as international pressure. "Yesterday, they were dubbing us terrorists. Today they are talking to us unconditionally. It is a clear cut victory for Altaf Hussain, who was first sentenced by a kangaroo court, and was now being talked to."

To a question about MQM's agenda for talks, he said these were not demands. "These are the rights of Muhajirs which they must be given. Muhajirs cannot be kept like slaves anymore," he declared in a tone that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

was alarming. He said give and take occurs on the issue of demands. "But here, we are talking of our rights and none of them can be compromised."

Dehlvi repeatedly called upon the government to listen to these warnings and try to solve Muhajirs' problems seriously. But when asked, he did not doubt the sincerity of the government in inviting the MQM for talks.

Dehlvi claimed that Muhajirs were living a life worse than slavery but time had come to give them their rights. Otherwise, Muhajirs would decide their own destiny, he said.

About the Karachi operation, he said if it did not have the support of the army, the present government would have been finished in a day. He repeated the MQM charges that the army had forced the MQM to boycott last National Assembly elections.

Asked why the MQM then kept writing to the Army Chief Gen. Abdul Waheed for help, he said his party never criticised it as an institution. "We were deprived of our democratic right because of some corrupt generals." When asked about the present situation, he said even now a particular clique of army generals, in league with the government, trying to sabotage peace in Karachi. [sentence as published] He said the ethnic factor had also gripped the army and certain decisions were made on these basis.

But then he hastened to add that the ethnicity should not be encourage as it could prove harmful for the country. He recalled that in the past too people had been raising slogans like "Jag Punjabi Jag." [Rise Punjabis Rise]

To another question, however, he said that Gen. Waheed was a professional and neutral person. Asked whether he meant to say that the army chief was helpless before those army officers and the government's policy, Dehlvi said it could be because in this institution, decisions were made through a certain process and not by one individual.

He said the point to ponder was that who had divided Pakistan and why was Hamoodur Rehman commission's Report not made public. He said the 'third force' was not involved in Karachi corruption as an institution and the army chief had nothing to do with this "game".

About the MQM's petition lying with the Supreme Court, he said he did not expect much. He said he did not trust the court as the government had brought in judges who were its sympathisers. He said even in the past, the Supreme Court had decided in favour of Mohammad Khan Junejo after the death of Gen. Ziaul Haq. "We would only get a verdict in our favour when this government is gone."

His views clearly were an indication that the Altaf Group's leadership was out to challenge the writ of every institution in the country.

Coming back to the rights of Muhajirs, he said "If Balochistan, with a population of 2.5 million people, can have a high Court, an assembly and a public service commission, then why can't 25 million Muhajirs have the same in Karachi."

He did not stop here. Dehlvi said that if thinly populated countries like Kuwait, Qatar, Bubai and Libya could run like successful countries, then the history could also repeat itself here. Going a bit further, he said if Israel could prove to be a pain in the need for Arabs, if Vietnam could defeat the United States and if Afghan Mojahedin could push out a super power, then the Muhajir nation also had the power to break the shackles of oppression. When asked about the foreign funding, he said had the US, Israel and India been giving arms and money to Altaf Group, the game with Pakistan would have been over in just a month. "If the entire Karachi comes to a halt at one signal of Altaf Hussain, then he can do anything."

He said if the government had any proof, it should prove it in court. He said it was the Amnesty International and the human rights organisations which had criticised the "Government of Pakistan" for committing atrocities.

When asked that when had the people of Karachi demanded a separate province, his reply was that they were conveying this through putting pressure on MQM leadership. He said Altaf Hussain had never talked of a province but if things continued to be as if they were today, then the day was not far when he would have to give in to such pressure.

About a possible referendum in Karachi on the issue of province, he said the results of such an exercise would not be different from that held by late Ziaul Haq. "The government would get the desired results through state machinery."

The MQM negotiator made a strange remark when he said that even if Altaf Hussain was terrorist, even if the was wrong, the government had to accept him as leader of Muhajirs.

"Sometimes, you have to accept some wrong demands in the larger interest of the nation. Even if Altaf is an Indian agent, why doesn't Pakistan win him over to his side."

According to him, Altaf is a God gifted leader and hero of Muhajirs.

"You cannot obliterate a leader just like that who has roots in the people."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said the government was being undemocratic by not allowing local bodies elections in Muhajir populated areas. He said his party had worked with Benazir Bhutto against the dictatorship but now her approach had changed and she had abandoned the democratic values.

He said Muhajirs were being dubbed as RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents just because they used to visit their relatives in India. But what about Ghulam Mustafa Khar, who had vowed to enter Pakistan on Indian tanks. He has been made a federal minister instead of sending him to jail.

He advised the government to open its eyes to realities. The official sources say the government and the other powers are alive to the situation and they are watching the pressure tactics being used by the Altaf Group. One strong view is that a decisive strike should be launched against the militants to quell the insurgency, even if the help of the army has to be sought.

About the killings in Karachi, he said it was all being done by the Rangers, the police and Haqiqi Group. According to his claims, the Altaf group militants were not responsible for any killing.

To another question, he said President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari was a serious person. "But the President's problem is that he is being constantly fed wrong information by the people around him. In my meeting with him, I had told him that we would forcefully demand our rights from him as our votes had put him in that office."

He said if the government accused just a handful of MQM terrorists of destroying peace, then it had no right to remain in power because it had failed to control even those few person.

About the government in possession of films showing terrorism committed by Altaf Group, he said his party had also prepared a "tale of atrocities." To a question, he said this film consisted of incidents that had taken in the last two years. "We have sent that movie to international human rights organisations."

MQM Chief Cancels Protest To Help Talks

BK1307013695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1833 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, July 12 (AFP) — Karachi's ethnic based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Wednesday [12 July] called off its weekly two-day protest in the port city in a bid to facilitate peace talks between the movement and Pakistan's government.

"This is another gesture of goodwill towards the government," MQM leader Altaf Hussain said in a statement from London where he lives in self-exile.

The two-day protest was to be observed by MQM supporters on Friday and Saturday, and the cancellation of the demonstration came after the MQM and the government held a first round of talks aimed at ending the Karachi violence.

Strikes and protests in that troubled city often end in bloodshed and violent clashes between police and opponents of the government.

Hussain, in his statement released here by the MQM negotiating team to the talks with the government, urged the government to "restrain" paramilitary forces and police in Karachi also to help the political process.

Earlier the MQM had cancelled a strike day called for last Monday, a move which signalled the start of a resumption of normal life in city following a three-day general shut down.

Hussain said, his party, which represents the Urdu speaking Muhajir community, was opposed to terrorism and believed in a peaceful struggle to achieve political and social rights for Muhajirs.

Hussain asked his followers to be patient and peaceful and to continue their drive within the constraints of the law.

He also said that the government should order the security forces in Karachi to respect the human rights of the city's people and to refrain from "raiding their houses and arresting them" in operations.

The MQM and the government agreed Tuesday, in the first round of talks aimed at ending the violence in Karachi, on how the negotiations would continue. The meeting is to be resumed on Thursday.

More than 1,900 people have died since the start of 1994 in ethnic and sectarian violence which has wracked Pakistan's commercial and industrial hub.

The government has blamed MQM for much of the bloodshed, but the MQM attributes the spiral of violence to what it calls Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's anti-Muhajir policy in her southern home province, of which Karachi is the capital.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

MQM Chief Interviewed on Karachi Issue

BK1107072595 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Jul 95 pp 44-47

[Report on interview with MQM leader Altaf Hussain by senior editor Shakhar Gupta in London; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]*The Indian subcontinent is no stranger to the species: the charismatic rabble-rouser who articulates a minority's real and imagined sense of discrimination and builds it into a mass persecution complex and, ultimately, a militant movement. But Altaf Hussain, 41, the supremo of Pakistan's Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) — the refugees' national front — and the most wanted man in Pakistan, is in a class apart. Unscathed by allegations of fascism, extortion and terrorism, his party commands almost total sway among the nearly 20-million strong community of Urdu-speaking Pakistanis who migrated from India during the Partition, and now forms the majority in Sindh's urban centres. For nearly a decade, the party has held sway in the province's cities, sweeping elections when it hasparticipated in them, or otherwise holding them, including Karachi, to ransom.*

The violence in Karachi is complicated by religious and sectarian factors and the drug mafia. But the primary discord is ethnic, with the armed militants of the MQM fighting rival factions within the Muhajir community and militants of other ethnicities besides government forces. The toll in 1994 was 1,800. This year, the toll has already crossed the 800 mark and there is no sign of a let-up. Last month, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto squarely blamed the MQM for the trouble and called its cadres "gun-toting rats ".

With the police and the army huntingfor him, Hussain has been in exile in London for nearly two years. But his charisma is intact, as evident from the large crowds that gather in Karachi to listen to his live "phone-in" speeches relayed on cellular phones — at one time, he addressed 19 different meetings simultaneously. Never short on rhetoric, Hussain, the son of a station master of pre- Partition Agra railway station, and the grandson of the Grand Mufti of Agra, had never spoken to the Indian media, fearing that they would buttress charges of his having links with India. Last fortnight, he broke this silence and spoke to Senior Editor Shekar Gupta for over two hours at his home in northern London's upmarket Mill Hill area. Excerpts:

Q. How does itfeel to live in exile?

A. One who hasn't suffered it cannot understand it. The Muhajirs of Pakistan have already suffered the curse once in 1947. They left in India the graves of their ancestors, their cultural heritage, all the memories attached with that soil.

And for so many of us, now exiled, fearing for our lives in Pakistan, this is the repeat of that curse.

Q. How do you look back on Partition?

A. The Hindus and Muslims were fighting for independence together. But the British created distrust between them. The leaders of the Hindus as well as the Muslims are to blame, for if only they had accepted each other's existence and rights, the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and all the others would have continued living together as they had done for centuries. There would have then been no relevance of the two-nation theory, and India would not have been divided. Gandhi did not want India's division. He wanted all religions to live togetheL But there were some biased Hindu leaders. The point is, what had to happen, happened. Our ancestors suffered migration, and the curse has stayed with us.

Q. Has the two-nation theory been successful?

A. Today the theory has become the butt of jokes. Pakistan was made in the name of Islam. But two and a half lakh Urdu-speaking Pakistanis (the so-called Biharis) who did not support the Bengali independence movement, and were victimised, have been waiting to return to Pakistan since the fall of Dhaka. Many of these people lost their fathers defending Pakistan's integrity. Our country's leaders shed tears for Muslims wherever they are victimised. But they have no time for their own people who defended the two-nation theory. And the Muhajirs have been victimised politically and economically. Are you then surprised that people laugh at the theory?

Q. Why did you leave Pakistan?

A.I am not afraid of jail or courts. But my partymen requested me, Altafbhai, it is time for you to lead us from where you can be safe from assassination plans being hatched by government agencies'. The fact is, we pine to go back to our country despite the atrocities. We are not separatists.

Q. But what are you fighting for?

A. Equality for the Muhajir people. Then, against feudalism, power barons and undemocratic forces. Pakistan does not have a real democracy. It has a pseudo-, or rather, a feudo-democracy. This is a rule of the feudals, for the feudals, by the feudals. Extra- judicial executions have become the order of the day. Muhajir boys are picked up, tortured at night, their bodies thrown on the streets the next day. And the Government says they were killed in encounters. There are some people in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ruling hierarchy who want to paint Muhajirs as Indian agents.

Q. Who are these people?

A. The same people who first called the Bengalis Indian agents. Then they called the Baluch people Indian agents. Then the Pakhtoons, the Sindhis, and now the Muhajirs are being called Indian agents. There is a section of people here which wants to prove that only they are patriots and the others are all traitors.

Q. That leaves only the Punjabis.

A. Yes. But not all the Punjabis are like that. The problem is a section of the ruling elite. They tell the Punjabis that the loyalty of the Pathans, Baluch, Sindhis and Muhajirs is suspect. Even common Punjabis are victimised. They are made to live like slaves. Like the people who work in Benazir's village. She has two faces. One, for the West, is secular and democratic. The other, the real one, in Pakistan, is that of a dictator, feudal and tyrant. She says, 'I'm not the prime minister. I'm the queen of the country. All of you act like my subjects'. She and her types hate me because I'm not a feudal, nor a tribal head, nor a capitalist.

Q. Nor a general?

A. Yes. And nor was my father a general. So they hate me. Because they know that I come from among the real masses. Only the MQM is an organisation where you cannot name one elected member who is a feudal or a capitalist. So all the power barons and corrupt generals are afraid of it.

Q. But a lot of people believe that the MQM ran torture cells and held Karachi under siege.

A. Okay, if you were under siege by a terrorist organisation and someone freed you, won't you be happy? So,when the army launched a campaign against the MQM in Karachi and other urban areas of Sind, people should have welcomed them. Did anyone come to the streets to welcome the army? People were crying. Their babies were being massacred. People were treated as prisoners of war, as in an occupied nation.

There were cries of distress all over, corpses were surfacing in the streets, fathers were killed in place of sons, brother in place of brother. Every house was in mourning.

Q. I know marly people in Pakistan who differ with that.

A. Well. Government propaganda was that people were happy. If that was the case, why did the army generals, in the 199 3 elections, tell us not to participate? They said, Contest only from four constituencies. Why? Because they were scared that if the MQM swept the polls, they would be exposed. At the same time, if we boycotted completely, their election would have no credibility. So they wanted a situation where they could say that we contested but won only four seats. This, after the army had run a year-long operation, killed thousands of our people and circulated fake pictures of our alleged torture cells. How would the army have looked if we had still won the election?

Q. So you are confirming that you were forced to stay out of the polls?

A. Yes. Since then thousands of my people have disappeared. There are cases where a parent of one of my underground people dies, and they go and surround his house. In our culture, as in yours, the son helps carry the body to the graveyard. That's when they arrest him. We believed in Pakistan, so we left our homes to build it. Was that a mistake for which we are being punished? We are the builders of Pakistan and we are being treated as third-rate citizens. We sacrificed two million lives. This country's foundations are soaked in our parents' blood. And this is the way we are treated?

Q. Do you have regrets about Partition?

A. That question is not relevant. The point is, we, from the Muslim-minority provinces of India, wanted Pakistan and built Pakistan. We want to preserve it within its boundaries. We have the greatest stake in it.

Q. Who is responsible for the violence in Karachi?

A. The Government and its intelligence agencies. There are things I cannot say to the Indian media. As such they call us Indian agents, Hindus, all kinds of things. But everyone knows these agencies hire terrorist groups. Look at the MQM(Haqiqi). It is no MQM faction. General Asif Nawaz picked all the people expelled from the MQM, trained them and armed them with weapons and the licence to kill.

Q. But why should the Government do this? This only embarrasses it.

A. Because they are mad. That is all I can say. Dictators think like that. They think they are gods. Didn't the dictators knowin 1971 that the Bengalis had won the election? If he had given them power, Pakistan would not have broken up. They say we have power, we will crush them. Just as in 1971 they did not accept the popular mandate, today they are not accepting the mandate given by millions to the MQM. I am warning Pakistani authorities again and again, Don't push the Muhajirs completely to the wall. Otherwise 1971 will be repeated. And we don' want that. We are patriotic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and we want to keep Pakistan united. And this is the treatment we are getting from our own soldiers?

Q. What do you think of Benazir?

A. Look at the way she called us gun-toting rats. She did not mean to call us cowards, as people say rats or chicken. It was more in the nature of calling us vermin. Now the world must accept that she is a fascist like Hitler. Hitler had said that Jews and gypsies are rats and should be exterminated. Then she said that the Muhajirs have different blood, that we have bad blood. It was this blood that built this country. She should apologise to the entire Muhajir nation. She claims to be a great champion of women. But look at the hundreds of Muhajir women who have been molested and raped by law-enforcement agencies. We feel sorry for what is happening to Muslims in Bosnia and Kashmir. But we are also Muslims suffering repression. Why is the world ignoring us? *Aree bhai, hum bhi to maare ja rahe hain* (After all, we are getting killed too).

Q. Why have you avoided the Indian media so far?

A. I never spoke to anybody from the Indian media in spite of so many requests. India has never helped us. Even its media blindly accepted government propaganda and called us terrorists. It hurt me deeply. So now I said, what the hell, they call us Indian agents anyway. Let me at least speak out my mind so that my Muslim brothers in India know how we are being treated.

Q. What is your advice to them?

A. Consider India your country. You are part and parcel of it. India is your country, not Pakistan. At the same time, the Hindus and Sikhs should not treat them as second- or third-rate citizens. They should be given equal treatment. My advice is, learn from history. Otherwise, communal riots will continue, and again you might have a situation where a community says it cannot live in the country. Indian intellectuals should take the lead here.

Q. Didn't the subcontinent's Urdu-speaking Muslims suffer both ways, in that their loyalties are suspected in India and you say they are discriminated against in Pakistan?

A. That indeed is an undeniable tragedy. So I appeal to India's leaders and intellectuals that what had to happen, has happened. Please consider the Muslims as India's first-grade citizens and provide them the opportunity to enter all walks of life. It is silly to talk of war these days when the countries that fought the world wars have set up the European Community.

Q. Is a similar South Asian confederation possible in the subcontinent?

A. That is my wish also. All the countries of South Asia should talk and look at the West's example. It is possible as long as it does not affect the integrity of any nation. India should accept Pakistan's existence. The two should solve the Kashmir problem. The Indian Government must stop atrocities over the Kashmiris. They should be allowed to decide their fate, whether they want to live with India or Pakistan, or if they want to choose another option. Ask them to stop the atrocities.

Q. What have the Muslims of the subcorltinent lost and gained since Partition? How does the balance sheet read?

A. If you look at it materialistically, we have lost everything. But if you look at it spiritually, we have built a country for the Muslims. So the spiritual success is there. That satisfaction is there. As far as material gains are concerned,*bhai*, we have gained nothing. Materially, it is a case of *na khuda hee mila, na visaal-e-sanam. na idhar ke rahe, na udhar ke rahe* (I got neither God, nor a glance at my lover, I ended up neither here, nor there).

Q. You obviously regret that the Muhajirs did not get political power.

A. We had not moved out hoping to become the monarchs of Pakistan. But at least do not deny us basic human and fundamental rights in a country we have helped create. Just give us those rights. When the one in authority does not give people their rights, then Nature intervenes. And when Nature intervenes, it doesn't bother about anybody's power. No one can stop it. You can draw whatever conclusion you want from this.

Sri Lanka

Operation 'Leap Forward' Continues Against LTTE

Troops Capture LTTE Strongholds

BK1207165495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces were able to achieve their objective in the Operation Leap Forward during the last three days. A military spokesman said that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] did not expect that the security forces would launch an offensive with full strength and high morale. As a result of dedicated and determined efforts by the soldiers, the government troops were able to capture many strongholds of the LTTE in the Jaffna Peninsula. The spokesman also said that this is the first time that the soldiers in the Palali camp were conducting a major

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

offensive against the Tigers. He said that the Sri Lankan Air Force and the Sri Lankan Navy were provided air and sea covers during the operation.

During the last few days, the security forces have successfully launched air attacks on many LTTE targets. The Tiger camps at Vadamarachchi, Valvedditturai, and Arali have been annihilated. In yesterday's operations, the security forces took control of the entire (Tunavi) village. The security forces repulsed LTTE attacks effectively causing many casualties among the terrorists. Meanwhile, 10 LTTE cadres surrendered to the security forces in Jaffna yesterday.

Radio messages of the LTTE intercepted by the government reveal that the terrorists were withdrawing in view of the major offensive by the forces. The LTTE radio has also appealed for blood to treat their injured. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that orders have been given to the security forces to conduct their offensive against the terrorists with precision so that Jaffna civilians would not be affected during the operation. Reports reaching from Jaffna say that people in the liberated areas in the peninsula are extending their support to the security forces and have appealed to them to liberate the innocent civilians from the claws of the Tigers.

Operation Leap Forward enters the fourth day today and the brigade will continue the operation. The deputy minister for defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, on a visit to Jaffna yesterday said in an interview that the objective of the operation was to completely liberate the innocent Tamil population from the grip of the LTTE and the security forces would achieve this aim as soon as possible. Soldiers in the battlefront have said that the war is not against the innocent Tamil civilians and they would do their best to protect them during the offensive. They said they were waging a war only against the Tigers and they would crush the LTTE completely and free the population from their tyranny.

A combined force of Air Force, Army and police personnel commenced searching the (Boomtala) sanctuary in the Hambantota District in the south yesterday morning, police sources said. The move was to flush out suspected LTTEiers [LTTE militants] who were believed to have taken refuge in the dense jungles bordering (Veeravilla), having infiltrated from the Eastern Province recently. Police sources said this is after many villagers, who go into jungles to graze their cattle and collect firewood, had observed the activities of a group of unidentified armed men and women, sources said. The number of security checkpoints have been increased in the Hambantota District along with the search operations, sources said.

Security sources also suspect that LTTEiers could have made use of the jungles in the Monaragalla District to move in an unobserved fashion from the east. All police stations in the Kataragama area and Hambantota District are involved in the joint search operation by the security forces, police sources said.

Spokesman Claims 'Great Success'

BK1307052395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 13 (AFP) — A major campaign against Tamil separatists entered its fifth day on Thursday [13 July] as thousands of troops pursued an offensive on the rebels' stronghold in northern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said.

Soldiers backed by armour and artillery began a push into areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Jaffna peninsula, the spokesman said.

"We started the advance at first light today," the spokesman said adding that there were no reports of close-quarter fighting overnight. The military says it has lost 18 soldiers since the offensive was launched Sunday.

The military has claimed success in the first phase of the operation, which was completed on Wednesday after two columns of soldiers linked up to bring a vast area of the peninsula under their control.

Government forces are still about six kilometres (four miles) away from the town of Jaffna, the capital of Tamil separatism and where the Tigers maintain a de-facto state with its own police and civil administration.

"So far it has been a great success," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe told reporters here Wednesday, adding that the military had secured a vital supply route to all its northern bases.

However, the operation has also been marked by civilian casualties, including the bombing of a Roman Catholic church that claimed scores of lives, many of them infants.

Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said there would be no fresh negotiations with the LTTE but the government would shortly unveil a political package to resolve the ethnic conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Roman Catholic bishops expressed regret at the airforce bombing of the church, and urged the government to do all it could to prevent further civilian casualties.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference said it was deeply saddened by Sunday's attack on the Church of Peter and Paul at Navaly where, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 65 people were killed, 13 of them infants.

"We appreciate the initiative taken by the President (Chandrika Kumaratunga) to conduct an impartial inquiry (into the incident). We also wish to urge the government to ensure that such tragedies do not recur," the conference said in a statement.

Travellers from the embattled northern region have said that at least 145 bodies were brought to Jaffna's main hospital, which is run under the protection of the ICRC.

Proposed Abolition of Executive Presidency Approved

BK1207023195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of constitutional affairs and justice, Professor G.L. Peiris, explaining the government's position on the abolition of the executive presidency, reassured that the executive presidency would be abolished at the proper time, in the proper manner. At yesterday's cabinet press briefing, Prof. Peiris said that the abolition of the executive presidential system was discussed in two forms at last Friday's [7 July] meeting of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Constitutional Reforms and yesterday's Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet unanimously approved the government's stand to abolish the executive presidency after executive powers were delegated to Parliament. But to do this, the parliamentary system has to be restructured, because under the present electoral system, it cannot be done. He said that in fact the MP's in the present Parliament were not free, and they were bound by party discipline. They cannot vote according to their conscience. So, this entire process could not be done in isolation. Prof. Peiris said that Parliament must have the power to wield its powers. Creating a prime minister's post with all executive powers that were similarly vested in the president will not be the answer. Prof. Peiris emphasized that to abolish the executive presidency, a two-thirds majority in Parliament and a referendum were required. This process takes time and the government is committed to go ahead with it as early as possible, but it was difficult to give a specific timeframe, Prof. Peiris added.

Referring to a news item broadcast over the SLBC, Prof. Peiris said that it was true that the government was in [as heard] the proscription of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and that a decision would be taken after studying all legal and political aspects.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.